What is API?

An API, or *application programming interface*, is essentially **a way for apps to borrow functionality and data from each other**.

There are three common use cases of APIs, and I will provide concrete examples for each to help simplify the concept.

1. The first lets **one app ask another app to solve a particular problem**. For example, Uber borrows PayPal/PayTM API, a secure method for processing credit card payments, to allow its own app to collect payments from passengers. Venmo also uses a specialized API to be able to send confirmation text messages and emails following payments.
2. The second type of API **allows one app to ask another for interesting information**. For instance, New York's subway system has an API that allows other apps to access its real-time travel data, such as where trains are and when the next train will arrive. The US government also has a number of different APIs that offer data in the areas of American healthcare, agriculture, and more.
3. App developers use the third type of API to **gain access to the features of hardware devices**. Snapchat uses the phone's camera API to take pictures, while Google Maps uses the phone's geo-location API to know where you are located.

Well-developed APIs are useful tools for aspiring developers, since they can **easily incorporate advanced technology (with a small amount of code) into their new software**, without needing to reinvent the wheels. However, note that APIs are not perfect, and can make your application dependent on the APIs that it uses.  
  
We will use CoinMarketCap API to get data and use in our Application.