

# Step-by-Step: Use Gemini API in PHP

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## 1. Get a Gemini API key

Go to: <https://makersuite.google.com/app>

- Sign in with your Google account
  - Go to **API Keys**
  - Click “**Create API key**”
  - Copy the key
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## 2. Make an API call in PHP

Since there's **no official Gemini PHP SDK yet**, you'll make a request using `cURL` to the **Google Generative AI REST API**.

Here's a complete working example:

```
<?php
$api_key = 'YOUR_API_KEY_HERE';

$url = 'https://generativelanguage.googleapis.com/v1beta/models/gemini-
pro:generateContent?key=' . $api_key;

$data = [
    "contents" => [
        [
            "parts" => [
                ["text" => "Explain black holes like I'm 5 years old"]
            ]
        ]
    ]
];

$ch = curl_init($url);
curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_POST, 1);
curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_POSTFIELDS, json_encode($data));
curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_RETURNTRANSFER, true);
curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_HTTPHEADER, [
    'Content-Type: application/json'
]);

$response = curl_exec($ch);
curl_close($ch);

$responseData = json_decode($response, true);
echo $responseData['candidates'][0]['content']['parts'][0]['text'];
```

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## 🔒 Security Notes

- Keep your API key **secret**. Never expose it in client-side JS or public repos.
- This example is **safe to run from a PHP server**, not from the browser.
- You can build this into an API endpoint if you're using Laravel or any PHP framework.

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## 💬 Sample Output

If you ran the example with the prompt "**Explain black holes like I'm 5 years old**", it might return something like:

"A black hole is like a giant vacuum cleaner in space that even light can't escape..."