

The Ultimate API Documentation Checklist

50+ Essential Points for Production-Ready API Documentation



What's Inside?

✓ Essential Documentation

✓ Endpoint Documentation

✓ Code Examples

✓ Performance Guidelines

✓ Authentication & Security

✓ Error Handling

✓ Version Management

✓ Testing & Validation

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API Documentation Checklist

Use this checklist to ensure your API documentation is comprehensive and developer-friendly

1. Essential Documentation

- Overview page explaining what the API does HIGH
- Getting started guide with first API call example HIGH
- Base URL and environment endpoints (dev, staging, prod)
- API versioning strategy clearly explained
- Rate limiting and throttling policies HIGH
- Changelog documenting all API changes

2. Authentication & Security

- Authentication methods explained (API key, JWT, OAuth) HIGH
- How to obtain API credentials
- Token refresh process documented
- Security best practices and recommendations
- HTTPS/TLS requirements clearly stated HIGH
- Authorization scopes and permissions explained

3. Endpoint Documentation

- HTTP method clearly specified (GET, POST, PUT, DELETE) HIGH
- Full endpoint path with parameters highlighted
- Request parameters documented (path, query, body) HIGH
- Required vs optional parameters marked clearly
- Data types specified for all parameters
- Parameter validation rules and constraints
- Request headers documented
- Response format and structure HIGH
- HTTP status codes explained (200, 201, 400, 401, 404, 500)

4. Code Examples

- Examples in multiple languages (Python, JavaScript, cURL) MEDIUM
- Complete, runnable code samples
- Example requests with all required parameters
- Example responses for success cases HIGH
- Example error responses HIGH

5. Error Handling

- Error code reference table HIGH
- Error message format explained
- Common errors and solutions
- Troubleshooting guide
- Error response examples

9. Performance

- Rate limits documented
- Response time expectations
- Caching recommendations
- Bulk operations support
- Webhook alternatives

6. Data Models

- Schema definitions (OpenAPI/JSON Schema)
- Object properties documented
- Data type specifications
- Enum values listed
- Relationships between objects

10. SDKs & Libraries

- Official SDK links NICE
- Installation instructions
- Quick start examples
- SDK documentation links

11. Webhooks

- Available webhook events
- Webhook payload examples
- Setup instructions
- Security & verification
- Retry policy explained

12. Support & Contact

- Support email/contact form
- FAQ section
- Status page link
- Community forum/Discord

8. Testing & Sandbox

- Test environment provided MEDIUM
- Sample data available
- Interactive API explorer (Swagger UI)

Interactive API Explorer (Swagger UI)

SLA information

Postman collection available



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