### Steps to obtain and use an API key:

1. **Create an API key:**
   * Go to the Google AI Studio and create a new API key.
   * Assign the appropriate permissions to the key.
2. **Securely store the API key:**
   * **Do not** hardcode the API key in your code.
   * Use environment variables or a secrets manager to store it securely.
3. **Authenticate with the API:**
   * Use the google-cloud-aiplatform library to authenticate with the API using your API key.

### Updated Python code:

Python

import os  
import google.cloud.aiplatform as aiplatform  
  
def generate\_text(prompt):  
 # Set the API key as an environment variable  
 os.environ["GOOGLE\_APPLICATION\_CREDENTIALS"] = "/path/to/your/key.json"  
  
 # Initialize the Gemini model  
 model = aiplatform.gapitlm.Model(  
 endpoint='projects/<project-id>/locations/<location>/models/<model-name>'  
 )  
  
 # Generate text using the model  
 response = model.predict(prompt)  
 return response.text  
  
if \_\_name\_\_ == '\_\_main\_\_':  
 prompt = "Write a short story about a robot who wants to be a chef"  
 generated\_text = generate\_text(prompt)  
 print(generated\_text)

**Replace** /path/to/your/key.json with the actual path to your JSON key file.

### Additional considerations:

* For production environments, using a secrets manager (like Google Secret Manager) is highly recommended.
* Consider implementing error handling for API key issues.
* Explore using service accounts for more granular permissions.

**Would you like to delve deeper into any of these points, or do you have any other questions?**