00 · Environment & Connectivity

Use this notebook once per session to make sure all dependencies are installed, environment variables are loaded, and Alpaca connectivity is healthy.

```
In [1]:  %pip install -q -r ../requirements.txt
         print("Dependencies ready.")
```

```
Note: you may need to restart the kernel to use updated packages.
Dependencies ready.
```

```
In [2]:  import os
         from pathlib import Path

         from dotenv import load_dotenv

         ENV_PATH = Path("../.env")
         if ENV_PATH.exists():
             load_dotenv(ENV_PATH)
             print("Loaded .env file.")
         else:
             print(".env file not found. Using existing environment variables.")

         required = ["ALPACA_API_KEY", "ALPACA_SECRET_KEY", "ALPACA_BASE_URL"]
         missing = [k for k in required if not os.environ.get(k)]
         if missing:
             raise RuntimeError(f"Missing credentials: {missing}")

         os.environ.setdefault("APCA_API_KEY_ID", os.environ["ALPACA_API_KEY"])
         os.environ.setdefault("APCA_API_SECRET_KEY", os.environ["ALPACA_SECRET_KEY"])
         os.environ.setdefault("APCA_API_BASE_URL", os.environ["ALPACA_BASE_URL"])
         print("Credentials loaded and Alpaca SDK env vars patched.")
```

```
Loaded .env file.
Credentials loaded and Alpaca SDK env vars patched.
```

```
In [3]:  import alpaca_trade_api as tradeapi

         api = tradeapi.REST()
         clock = api.get_clock()
         print(f"Alpaca clock -> is_open={clock.is_open} next_open={clock.next_open}")
```

```
Alpaca clock -> is_open=False next_open=2025-11-18 09:30:00-05:00
```