# Retrieving Mappings in Elasticsearch

## 1. Introduction

Once a mapping is created for an index, it is often necessary to retrieve the mapping for verification or debugging. This can be particularly useful when dynamic mapping is used, as it allows you to see how Elasticsearch has automatically mapped fields based on indexed documents.

## 2. Retrieving Mappings for an Index

To retrieve the mapping for an entire index, you can use the **Mapping API** with a **GET** request. Here is an example of how to retrieve the mapping for the 'reviews' index:

**GET /reviews/\_mapping**

The results of this query will show the complete mapping of the **'reviews' index**, including all fields and their data types.

## 3. Retrieving Mappings for a Specific Field

It is also possible to retrieve the mapping for a specific field within an index. To do this, use the **'field'** command followed by the field name. Here is an example:

GET /reviews/\_mapping/field/author.email

In this example, the mapping for the 'email' field within the 'author' object is retrieved. For nested fields, a dot notation is used to specify the path.

## 4. Summary

1. The Mapping API allows you to retrieve mappings for an index or specific fields.  
2. Use 'GET /index\_name/\_mapping' to retrieve the mapping for an entire index.  
3. Use 'GET /index\_name/\_mapping/field/field\_name' to retrieve the mapping for a specific field. For nested fields, use dot notation to specify the path.  
4. Retrieving mappings is especially useful **when using dynamic mapping to understand how Elasticsearch has automatically mapped fields**.