API - **Application Programming Interface** - which essentially means a set of rules and protocols that allow applications to interact with a database, enabling them to access and manipulate data within it; it acts as a standardized way for different programs to communicate with the database without needing to know the underlying technical details of how the database operates.

ACID - **Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation, and Durability** - These are four key properties that ensure a transaction is completed reliably, meaning all changes within a transaction are either fully committed or completely rolled back if any errors occur, maintaining data integrity throughout the process.