

JS

How to Call an API?



Jayesh Deshmukh
@jayeshdeshmukh



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What is an API?

Think of API as a postman who takes your letter to another person and gets back with a response.

In simplest words, API is like a middle-man that helps client and server communicate with each other.



Jayesh Deshmukh
@jayeshdeshmukh



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Call an API

There are four steps to call an API:

1. Find an API
2. Request it
3. Handle response
4. Error handling

We will be using **JavaScript** to make the API call.



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@jayeshdeshmukh



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1. Find an API

We can use **RapidAPI Hub**, the home of over 35k+ APIs. I will use the Famous Quotes API from the Hub.

The screenshot shows the RapidAPI Hub interface with the 'Famous Quotes' API selected. The API has a popularity rating of 9.6 / 10, latency of 326ms, and a service level of 100%. The documentation page includes a search bar, endpoint details for 'Get Random Quotes', and a code snippet for Node.js using axios to make a GET request to the API's endpoint with a specific category parameter.

```
const axios = require('axios');

const options = {
  method: 'GET',
  url: 'https://famous-quotes4.p.rapidapi.com/random',
  params: {category: 'all', count: '2'},
  headers: {
    'X-RapidAPI-Key': '74cc794687a6b56d8abcf93795c14b84',
    'X-RapidAPI-Host': 'famous-quotes4.p.rapidapi.com'
  }
};

axios.request(options).then(function (response) {
  console.log(response.data);
}).catch(function (error) {
  console.error(error);
});
```



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@jayeshdeshmukh



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2.1 Request an API

We can use JavaScript **fetch** method to request an API.

```
// syntax  
  
fetch('API_URL', {  
    // additional config  
})  
    .then(response => response.json())  
    .then(data => console.log(data))  
    .catch(err => console.log(err));
```



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2.2 Request an API

We will make a **GET** request to the API.
Don't worry about the headers. You can
find them on RapidAPI Hub.

```
// requesting famous quotes API using fetch

fetch('https://famous-quotes4.p.rapidapi.com/random?category=all&count=1', {
  method: 'GET',
  headers: {
    'X-RapidAPI-Key': 'your-rapidapi-key',
    'X-RapidAPI-Host': 'famous-quotes4.p.rapidapi.com',
  },
})
```



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@jayeshdeshmukh



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3. Handle Response

The next step is to handle the API response.

```
// requesting famous quotes API using fetch

fetch('https://famous-quotes4.p.rapidapi.com/random?category=all&count=1', {
  method: 'GET',
  headers: {
    'X-RapidAPI-Key': 'your-rapidapi-key',
    'X-RapidAPI-Host': 'famous-quotes4.p.rapidapi.com',
  },
})
  .then(response => response.json())
  .then(response => console.log(response))
```



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@jayeshdeshmukh



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4. Error handling

Lastly, let's do some error handling in case the API request fails.

```
// requesting famous quotes API using fetch

fetch('https://famous-quotes4.p.rapidapi.com/random?category=all&count=1', {
  method: 'GET',
  headers: {
    'X-RapidAPI-Key': 'your-rapidapi-key',
    'X-RapidAPI-Host': 'famous-quotes4.p.rapidapi.com',
  },
})
  .then(response => response.json())
  .then(response => console.log(response))
  .catch(err => console.error(err));
```



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API Response

You will see a response like the following when you run your JavaScript file.

```
[  
 {  
     "text": "That neither our thoughts, nor passions, nor ideas formed  
 by the imagination, exist without the mind, is what every body will  
 allow.",  
     "author": "George Berkeley",  
     "id": 37917,  
     "category": "imagination"  
 }  
 ]
```



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