Configuring and Using an API in Postman

This article describes how to configure an API (the OpenWeather API) as a collection in Postman® and then use the collection to send requests to the API.

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Before You Start

Before following the steps outlined in this article, complete the following actions:

- Sign up for a free OpenWeather account
- Sign up for a free Postman account

Step 1: Obtain an OpenWeather API Key

Follow these steps to obtain the API key associated with your OpenWeather account:

1. Go to openweathermap.org and click **Sign in** to sign into your OpenWeather account.
2. Select the **API keys** tab on your OpenWeather account screen to view your API key (Figure 1). Make note of this key, as you will use it when you configure the OpenWeather API in Postman as a collection.

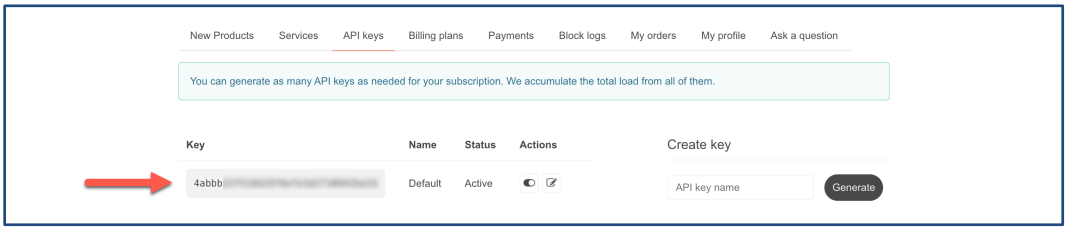

Figure 1

Step 2: Configure the OpenWeather API in Postman as a Collection

Follow these steps to create a collection for the OpenWeather API in Postman:

1. Go to postman.com and click **Sign In** at the upper-right corner of the screen to sign into your Postman account.
2. Click **Workspaces** at the upper-left corner of the screen, and then select the Postman workspace in which you want to configure the OpenWeather API.

   > **Note**: If no workspaces exist in your Postman account, or if you want to create a new workspace for the OpenWeather API, click **Create Workspace** to create a new workspace.

3. Select **Collections** in the sidebar on the left side of the screen, and then click **New** at the upper-right corner of the sidebar (Figure 2).

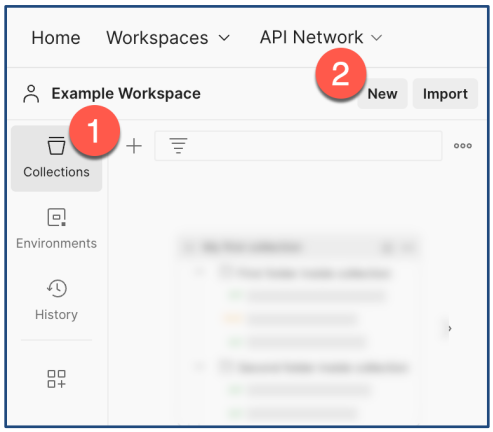

Figure 2

4. On the window that opens after clicking **New**, select **Collection**.
5. Update the name of the **New Collection** tab open in the Postman workbench (Figure 3) to **OpenWeather API**.

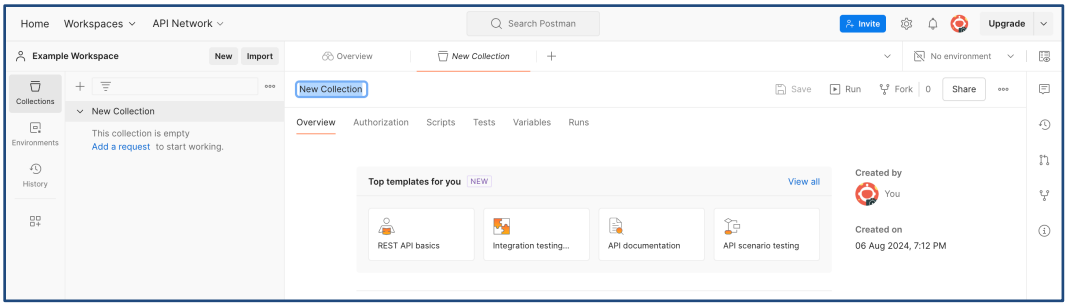

Figure 3

6. Select the **Authorization** subtab for the **OpenWeather API** collection and verify that **No Auth** is selected in the **Auth Type** dropdown.
7. Select the **Variables** subtab for the **OpenWeather API** collection, and then create the following variables (Figure 4). Note that you must specify each variable's value in the **Initial Value** and **Current Value** columns.

Variable	Value
baseUrl	Enter `https://api.openweathermap.org`.
apiKey	Enter the API key associated with your OpenWeather account.

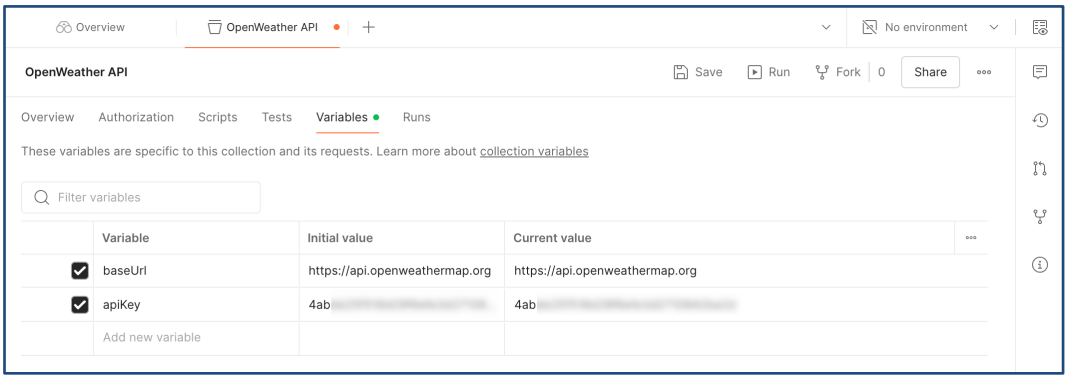

Figure 4

8. Click **Save** at the top right of the **OpenWeather API** collection.

Step 3: Configure and Send API Requests in Postman

This section demonstrates how to configure and send two API requests in Postman: the first request uses the OpenWeather Geocoding API to retrieve the latitude and longitude coordinates for a city (Pittsburgh, PA in this example), and the second request uses the OpenWeather Current Weather Data API to retrieve the current weather for a city.

Configure and Send a Geocoding API Request

Follow these steps to configure and send a request to the OpenWeather Geocoding API:

1. Expand the **OpenWeather API** collection in the sidebar on the left side of the screen, and then click **Add a request**.
2. Configure the **GET** **New Request** tab open in the Postman workbench (Figure 5) as follows:

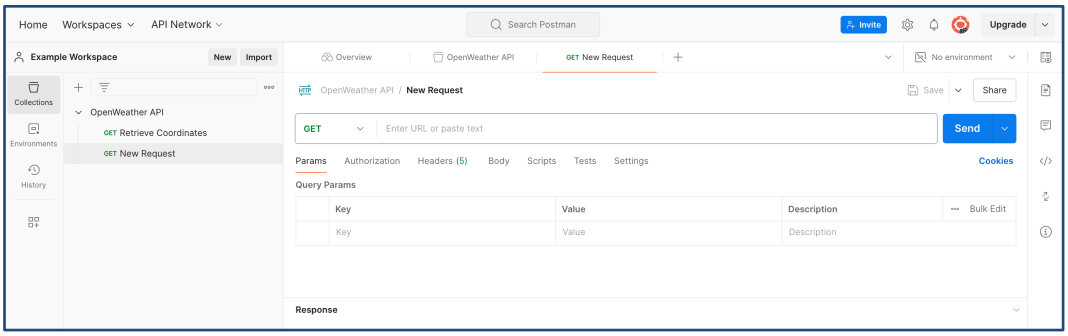

Figure 5

- **New Request**: Change the request's name to **Retrieve Coordinates**.
- **HTTP Method**: Keep the selection of **GET**.
- **Enter URL or paste text**: Enter `{{baseUrl}}/geo/1.0/direct`.
- **Query Params**: Configure the following query parameters as key-value pairs:

Key	Value
q	Enter the city name, state code (only for the US), or country code divided by a comma (for country codes, use ISO 3166).
appid	Enter `{{apiKey}}`.

> **Note**: For a list of optional query parameters you can use with the OpenWeather Geocoding API, see the OpenWeather Geocoding API documentation.

3. Click **Save** at the top right of the **GET Retrieve Coordinates** tab.
4. Click **Send** to the right of the request URL. If your request to the OpenWeather Geocoding API was successful, the lower pane of the **GET Retrieve Coordinates** tab will show a **200 OK** status and accompanying response data (Figure 6).

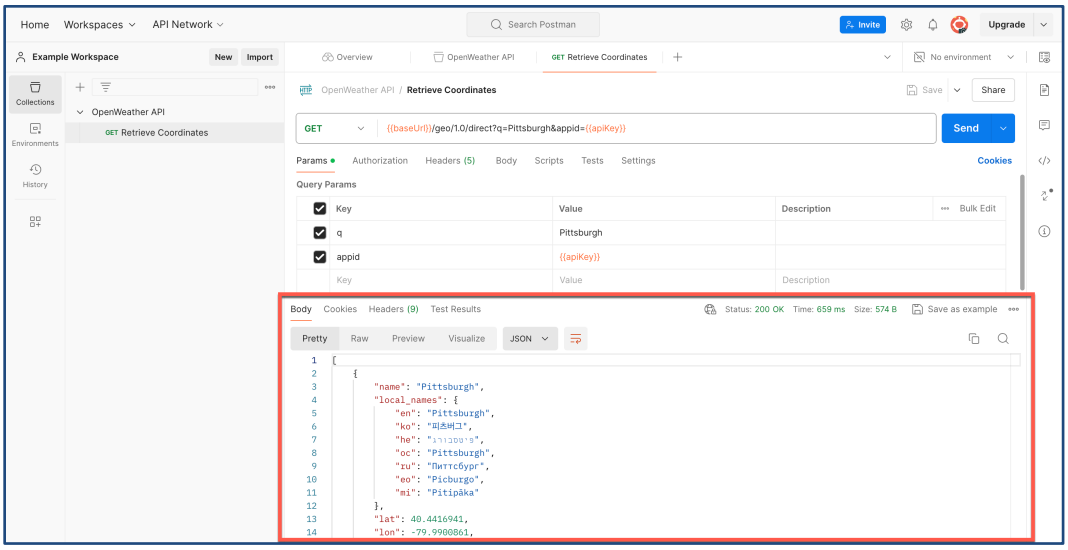

Figure 6

5. Make note of the values for the `lat` and `lon` fields in the API response (i.e., the latitude and longitude, respectively, for the desired location). You will use these values when configuring and sending an API request to retrieve the current weather for the desired location.

Configure and Send a Current Weather Data API Request

Follow these steps to configure and send a request to the OpenWeather Current Weather Data API:

1. Hover over the **OpenWeather API** collection in the sidebar on the left side of the screen, click **View more actions** ⋯, and select **Add request**.
2. Configure the **GET** **New Request** tab open in the Postman workbench (Figure 5) as follows:
   - **New Request**: Change the request's name to **Retrieve Weather**.
   - **HTTP Method**: Keep the selection of **GET**.
   - **Enter URL or paste text**: Enter `{{baseUrl}}/data/2.5/weather`.
   - **Query Params**: Configure the following query parameters as key-value pairs:

Key	Value
lat	Enter the latitude for the city. In this example, the latitude for Pittsburgh is `40.4416941`.
lon	Enter the longitude for the city. In this example, the longitude for Pittsburgh is `-79.9900861`.
appid	Enter `{{apiKey}}`.

> **Note**: For a list of optional query parameters you can use with the OpenWeather Current Weather Data API, see the OpenWeather Current Weather Data API documentation.

3. Click **Save** at the top right of the **GET Retrieve Weather** tab.
4. Click **Send** to the right of the request URL. If your request to the OpenWeather Current Weather API was successful, the lower pane of the **GET Retrieve Weather** tab will show a **200 OK** status and accompanying response data (Figure 7). The response data will include the current weather conditions for the specified location.

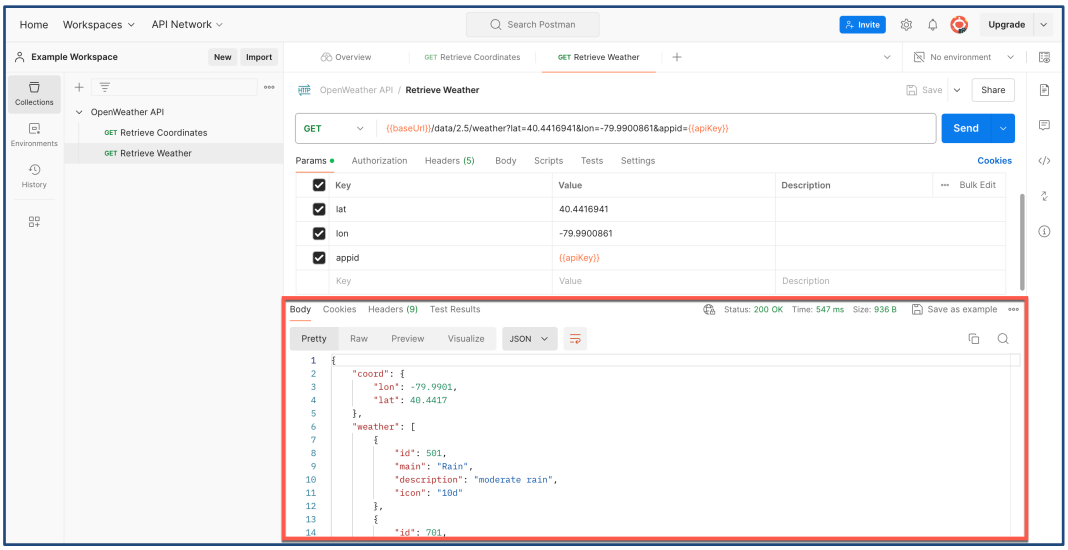

Figure 7

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