Configuring and Using an API in Postman

This article describes how to configure an API (the free version of 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

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.

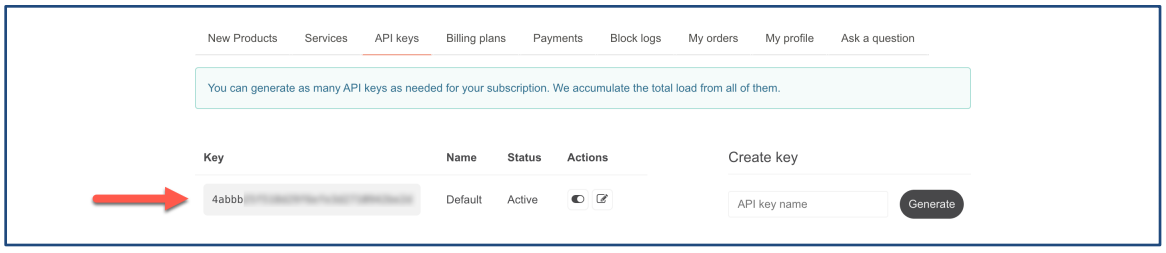

Figure 1

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

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).

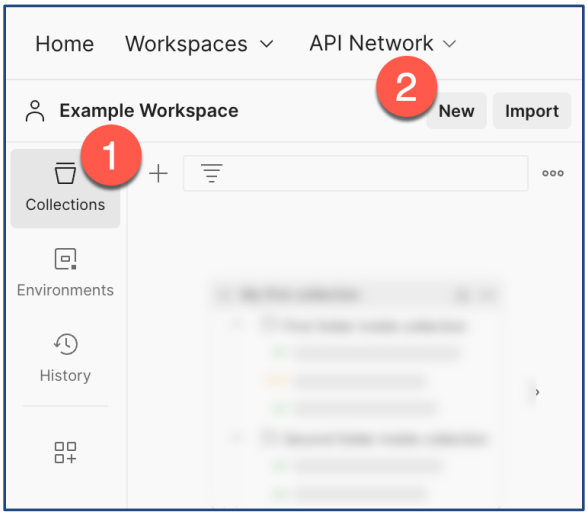

Figure 2

4. On the window that opens after clicking **New**, select **Collection**. A tab labeled **New Collection** will open in the workbench section of the screen (Figure 3). Change the collection's name to **OpenWeather API**.

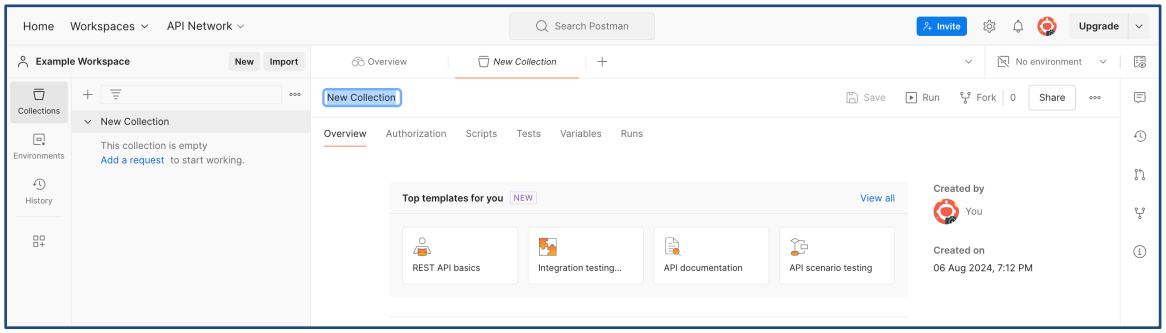

Figure 3

5. Select the **Authorization** subtab for the **OpenWeather API** collection and verify that **No Auth** is selected in the **Auth Type** dropdown.
6. Select the **Variables** subtab, 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.

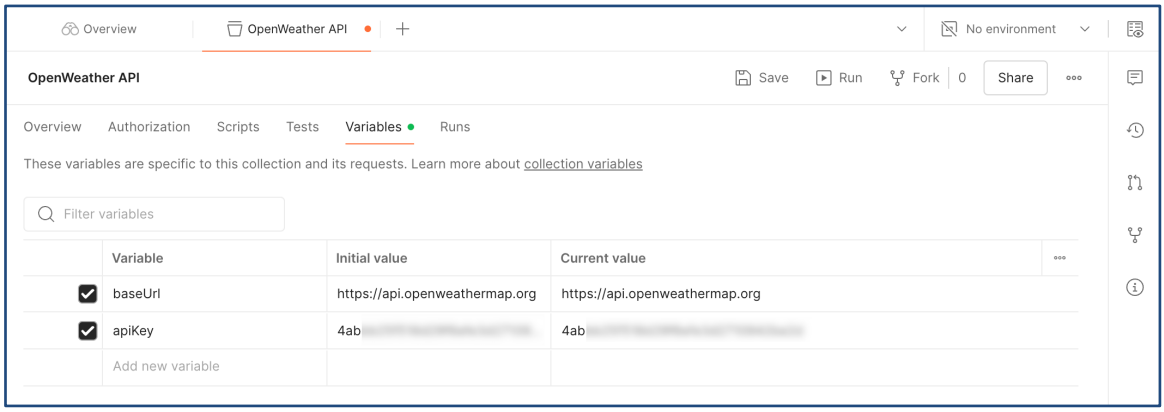

Figure 4

7. 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 make configure and send two separate 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 the city.

Configure and Send a Geocoding API Request

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 (Figure 5) as follows:

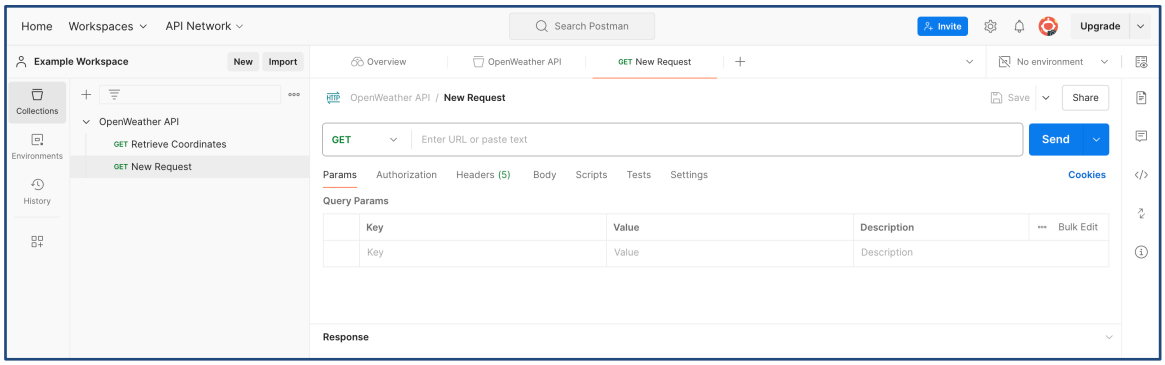

Figure 5

- **New Request**: Edit the request's name to reflect the action the request is performing (e.g., 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 that you can use with the OpenWeather Geocoding API, see the OpenWeather Geocoding API documentation.

3. Click **Save** at the top right of the **GET <*Request Name*>** 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 <*Request Name*>** tab will show a **200 OK** status and accompanying response data (Figure 6). Make note of the latitude and longitude values for the desired location, as you will use them to create and send an API request that retrieves the current weather for that location.

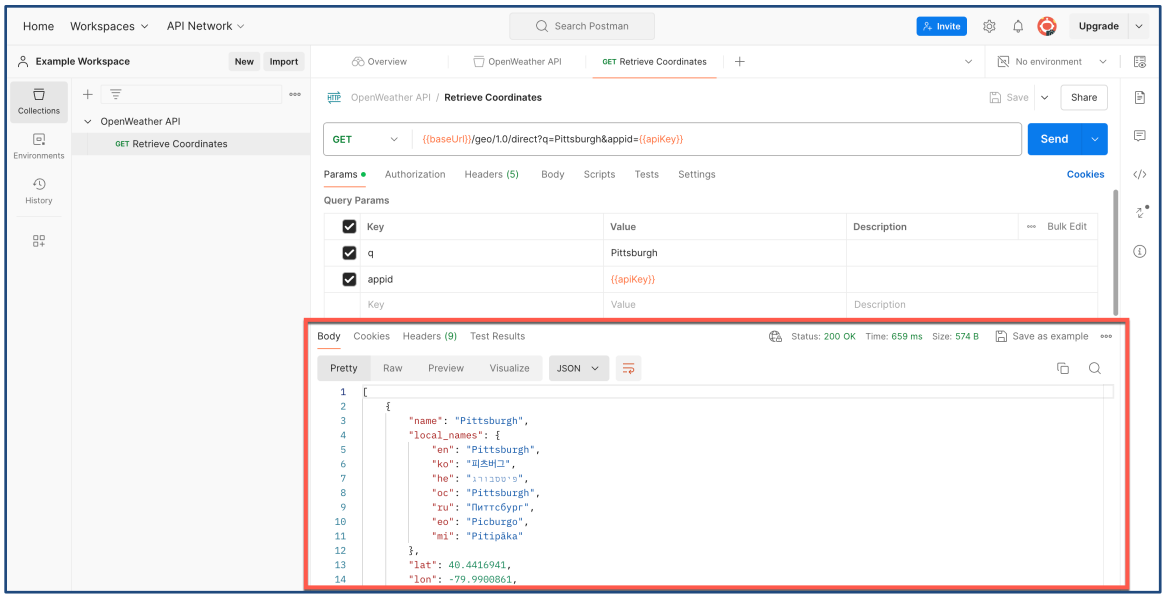

Figure 6

Configure and Send a Current Weather Data API Request

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 (Figure 5) as follows:
   - **New Request**: Edit the request's name to reflect the action the request is performing (e.g., 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 that 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** **<*Request Name*>** 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** <***Request Name***> tab will show a **200 OK** status and accompanying response data (Figure 7).

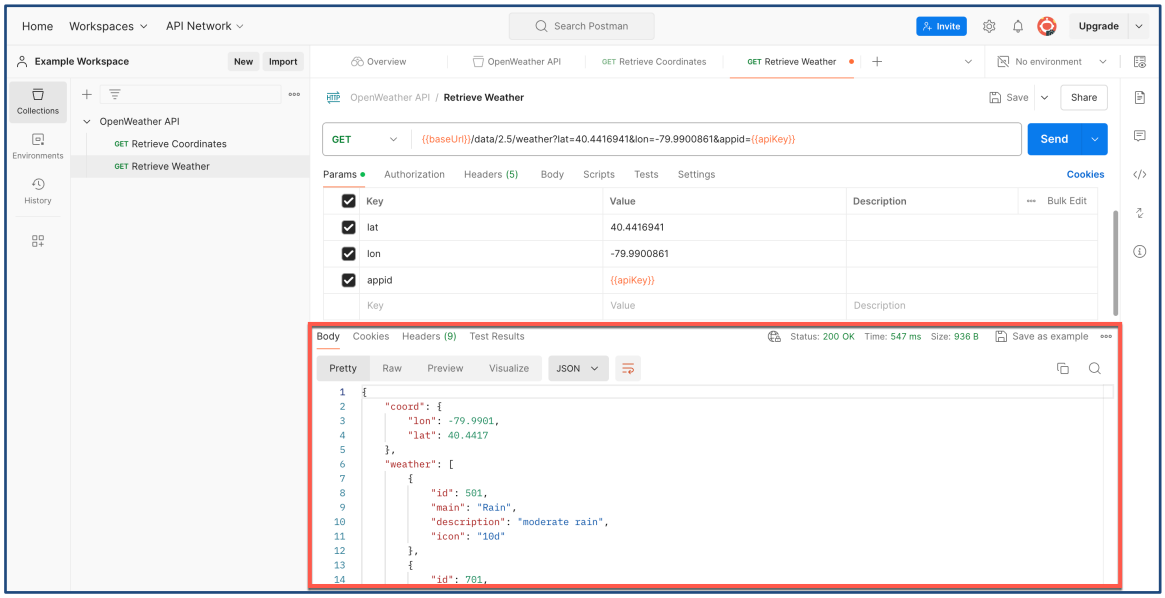

Figure 7
