[**OpenAPI**, formerly known as the **Swagger Specification**, is an **open-source format and initiative** for designing and creating **machine-readable interface files** used in producing, describing, consuming, and visualizing **RESTful APIs and web services**1](https://rapidapi.com/blog/api-glossary/openapi/). [It provides a consistent means to carry information through each stage of the API lifecycle, allowing you to understand how an API works, generate client code, create tests, and apply design standards](https://rapidapi.com/blog/api-glossary/openapi/)[2](https://www.openapis.org/what-is-openapi).

Here are **five free reference links** where you can learn more about OpenAPI:

1. [**OpenAPI Initiative**](https://www.openapis.org/): The official website provides comprehensive information about OpenAPI and its specifications[3](https://www.openapis.org/).
2. [**What is OpenAPI? - OpenAPI Initiative**](https://www.openapis.org/what-is-openapi): This page offers a detailed explanation of what OpenAPI is and how it fits into the API ecosystem[2](https://www.openapis.org/what-is-openapi).
3. [**API Resources - Swagger**](https://swagger.io/resources/open-api/): Explore resources related to OpenAPI, including tutorials, examples, and best practices[4](https://swagger.io/resources/open-api/).
4. [**OpenAPI Definition | API Glossary**](https://rapidapi.com/blog/api-glossary/openapi/): Learn about OpenAPI’s role in designing and creating machine-readable API interfaces[1](https://rapidapi.com/blog/api-glossary/openapi/).
5. [**OpenAPI Specification on GitHub**: Dive into the technical details by exploring the OpenAPI Specification on GitHub1](https://rapidapi.com/blog/api-glossary/openapi/).

Feel free to explore these resources to enhance your understanding of OpenAPI! 🚀