Developer quickstart

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Learn how to make your first API request.

The OpenAI API provides a simple interface to state-of-the-art AI models for natural language processing, image generation, semantic search, and speech recognition. Follow this guide to learn how to generate human-like responses to natural language prompts, create vector embeddings for semantic search, and generate images from textual descriptions.
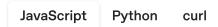
Create and export an API key

Create an API key in the dashboard here, which you'll use to securely access the API. Store the key in a safe location, like a `.zshrc` file or another text file on your computer. Once you've generated an API key, export it as an environment variable in your terminal.

macOS / Linux   Windows

```
Export an environment variable on macOS or Linux systems

1  export OPENAI_API_KEY="your_api_key_here"
```
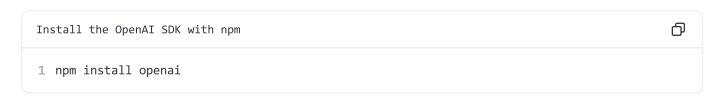
Make your first API request

With your OpenAI API key exported as an environment variable, you're ready to make your first API request. You can either use the REST API directly with the HTTP client of your choice, or use one of our official SDKs as shown below.

JavaScript   Python   curl

To use the OpenAI API in server-side JavaScript environments like Node.js, Deno, or Bun, you can use the official OpenAI SDK for TypeScript and JavaScript. Get started by installing the SDK using npm or your preferred package manager:

```
Install the OpenAI SDK with npm

1  npm install openai
```

With the OpenAI SDK installed, create a file called `example.mjs` and copy one of the following examples into it:

Generate text   Generate an image   Create vector embeddings

```
Create a human-like response to a prompt

1  import OpenAI from "openai";
2  const openai = new OpenAI();
3
4  const completion = await openai.chat.completions.create({
5      model: "gpt-4o-mini",
6      messages: [
7          { role: "system", content: "You are a helpful assistant." },
8          {
9              role: "user",
10             content: "Write a haiku about recursion in programming.",
11         },
12     ],
13     store: true,
14 });
15
16 console.log(completion.choices[0].message);
```

Execute the code with `node example.mjs` (or the equivalent command for Deno or Bun). In a few moments, you should see the output of your API request!

Next steps

Now that you've made your first OpenAI API request, you can explore the following resources:

Chat Completions
Learn more about generating text responses to natural language prompts

Image Generation
Generate images using our DALL·E model

Embeddings
Create vector representations of text, used for similarity search

Text-to-speech
Generate human-like voice recordings with our text-to-speech model

Speech-to-text
Create transcriptions of voice recordings with our Whisper model

Moderation
Analyze and filter user-created content with our moderation model

Fine-tuning
Fine-tune our models with your own data

Batch

Batch requests for async jobs

Full API Reference

View the full REST API reference for OpenAI