In the restaurant analogy, **Status Codes** are the waiter's shorthand to tell you how the order went. You don't have to guess if the kitchen is on fire or if your food is ready; the 3-digit number tells you exactly what's happening.

They are divided into **5 "families"** based on the first digit.

The Status Code Families

Code Range	Category	Meaning	Analogy
1xx	**Informational**	Request received, continuing process.	"I'm checking with the chef right now."
2xx	**Success**	The action was successfully received and accepted.	"Here is your food!"
3xx	**Redirection**	Further action needs to be taken to complete the request.	"We moved to a new building down the street."
4xx	**Client Error**	The request contains bad syntax or cannot be fulfilled.	"You ordered something not on the menu."
5xx	**Server Error**	The server failed to fulfill an apparently valid request.	"The stove exploded."

2xx Success (The "Happy Path")

- **200 OK:** Everything worked. Standard response for successful GET, PUT, or DELETE.
- **201 Created:** Everything worked, and a new resource was made. Standard for a successful POST.
- **204 No Content:** Success, but there's nothing to show you (common after a DELETE).

3xx Redirection

- **301 Moved Permanently:** The URL you called has a new home.
- **304 Not Modified:** Use your cached version; the data hasn't changed since you last checked.

4xx Client Errors (Your Fault)

- **400 Bad Request:** The server didn't understand your JSON or parameters.
- **401 Unauthorized:** You forgot your "ID badge" (missing or invalid API key/token).
- **403 Forbidden:** You have an ID badge, but you aren't allowed in this specific room.
- **404 Not Found:** The endpoint/URL doesn't exist.
- **405 Method Not Allowed:** You tried to DELETE an endpoint that only allows GET.
- **429 Too Many Requests:** You are calling the API too fast (rate limiting).

5xx Server Errors (The Developer's Fault)

- **500 Internal Server Error:** A generic "something broke" message in the server's code.
- **502 Bad Gateway:** One server got an invalid response from another server it was talking to.
- **503 Service Unavailable:** The server is overloaded or down for maintenance.

Code	Name	Quick Explanation (The Analogy)
1xx	**Informational**	**"Hold on, I'm still processing."**
100	Continue	Part of the request received; keep going.
101	Switching Protocols	Changing the "language" of the conversation (e.g., to WebSockets).
2xx	**Success**	**"Everything went great!"**
200	OK	Success. Here is your data/meal.
201	Created	Success. I've created the new resource you asked for.
202	Accepted	I've received the order, but it's not finished cooking yet.
204	No Content	Success, but I have no data to show you (common for DELETE).
3xx	**Redirection**	**"You need to go somewhere else."**
301	Moved Permanently	This address has changed forever.

302	Found (Temp)	This address has changed temporarily.
304	Not Modified	Nothing changed; use the copy you already have.
4xx	**Client Error**	**"You made a mistake in the order."**
400	Bad Request	I don't understand your order (Syntax/JSON error).
401	Unauthorized	I don't know who you are (Missing/Bad ID).
403	Forbidden	I know you, but you aren't allowed in this room.
404	Not Found	That item/URL does not exist.
405	Method Not Allowed	You used the wrong verb (e.g., POST instead of GET).
408	Request Timeout	You took too long to send the request.
409	Conflict	This already exists (e.g., Email already registered).
415	Unsupported Media	I don't accept the format you sent (e.g., sent Text, need JSON).
429	Too Many Requests	Slow down! You're asking too many times per minute.

5xx	Server Error	"The kitchen/server is broken."
500	Internal Server Error	The server's code crashed.
502	Bad Gateway	One server got a "nonsense" answer from another server.
503	Service Unavailable	The server is overloaded or down for maintenance.
504	Gateway Timeout	The server took too long to talk to the database.