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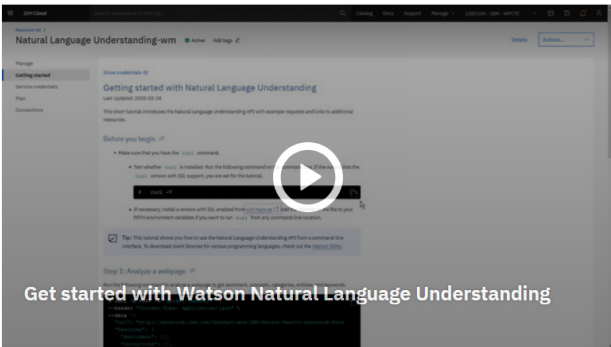**Getting started**

Service credentials

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Getting started with Natural Language Understanding

Last Updated: 2022-03-30

This short tutorial introduces the Natural Language Understanding API with example requests and links to additional resources.

Watch the following video for a visual summary of getting started with the Natural Language Understanding service.

Get started with Watson Natural Language Understanding

Before you begin 🔗

- Create an instance of the service:
  ① Go to the Natural Language Understanding ↗ page in the IBM Cloud catalog.
  ② Sign up for a free IBM Cloud account or log in.
  ③ Click **Create**.
- Copy the credentials to authenticate to your service instance:
  ① On the **Manage** page, click **Show Credentials**.
  ② Copy the `API Key` and `URL` values.
- Make sure that you have the `curl` command.

  - Test whether `curl` is installed. Run the following command on the command line. If the output lists the `curl` version with SSL support, you are set for the tutorial.

    ```
    $ curl -v
    ```

  - If necessary, install a version with SSL enabled from curl.haxx.se ↗. Add the location of the file to your PATH environment variables if you want to run `curl` from any command-line location.

☑ **Tip:** This tutorial shows you how to use the Natural Language Understanding API from a command-line interface. To download client libraries for various programming languages, check out the Watson SDKs.

Step 1: Analyze a webpage 🔗

Run the following command to analyze a webpage to get sentiment, concepts, categories, entities, and keywords.

```
$ curl -X POST -u "apikey:{apikey}" \
--header "Content-Type: application/json" \
--data '{
  "url": "http://newsroom.ibm.com/Guerbet-and-IBM-Watson-Health-Announce-Strategic
  "features": {
    "sentiment": {},
    "categories": {},
    "concepts": {},
    "entities": {},
    "keywords": {}
  }
}' \
"{url}/v1/analyze?version=2019-07-12"
```

Windows users: This command might not run on Windows. Run the following command instead:

```
$ curl -X POST -u "apikey:{apikey}" --header "Content-Type: application/json" --da
```

The next step demonstrates how to specify options that customize the analysis for each feature.

Step 2: Analyze target phrases and keywords 🔗

Natural Language Understanding can analyze target phrases in context of the surrounding text for focused sentiment and emotion results. The **targets** option for sentiment in the following example tells the service to search for the targets "apples", "oranges", and "broccoli". Since "apples" and "oranges" are located in the text, sentiment scores are returned for those targets.

You can also get sentiment and emotion results for entities and keywords that are detected in your text. In the example, the **emotion** option for keywords tells the service to analyze each detected keyword for emotion results.

```
$ curl -X POST -u "apikey:{apikey}" \
--header "Content-Type: application/json" \
--data '{
  "text": "I love apples! I do not like oranges.",
  "features": {
    "sentiment": {
      "targets": [
        "apples",
        "oranges",
        "broccoli"
      ]
    },
    "keywords": {
      "emotion": true
    }
  }
}' \
"{url}/v1/analyze?version=2019-07-12"
```

Runnable command for Windows users:

```
$ curl -X POST -u "apikey:{apikey}" --header "Content-Type: application/json" --da
```

Next steps 🔗

- View the API reference ↗.
- Learn how to identify custom entities and relations.