☰ <> **API reference**   ☀ 🔍

Messages examples   ⌄⌃

Messages examples
Request and response examples for the Messages API

See the API reference for full documentation on available parameters.

Basic request and response

Shell   Python   TypeScript

```sh
#!/bin/sh
curl https://api.anthropic.com/v1/messages \
     --header "x-api-key: $ANTHROPIC_API_KEY" \
     --header "anthropic-version: 2023-06-01" \
     --header "content-type: application/json" \
     --data \
'{
    "model": "claude-3-opus-20240229",
    "max_tokens": 1024,
    "messages": [
        {"role": "user", "content": "Hello, Claude"}
    ]
}'
```

JSON

```json
{
  "id": "msg_01XFDUDYJgAACzvnptvVoYEL",
  "type": "message",
  "role": "assistant",
  "content": [
    {
      "type": "text",
      "text": "Hello!"
    }
  ],
  "model": "claude-2.1",
  "stop_reason": "end_turn",
  "stop_sequence": null,
  "usage": {
    "input_tokens": 12,
    "output_tokens": 6
```

```
        }
    }
```

Multiple conversational turns

The Messages API is stateless, which means that you always send the full conversational history to the API. You can use this pattern to build up a conversation over time. Earlier conversational turns don't necessarily need to actually originate from Claude — you can use synthetic `assistant` messages.

Shell   Python   TypeScript

```shell
#!/bin/sh
curl https://api.anthropic.com/v1/messages \
     --header "x-api-key: $ANTHROPIC_API_KEY" \
     --header "anthropic-version: 2023-06-01" \
     --header "content-type: application/json" \
     --data \
'{
    "model": "claude-3-opus-20240229",
    "max_tokens": 1024,
    "messages": [
        {"role": "user", "content": "Hello, Claude"},
        {"role": "assistant", "content": "Hello!"},
        {"role": "user", "content": "Can you describe LLMs to me?"}

    ]
}'
```

JSON

```json
{
    "id": "msg_018gCsTGsXkYJVqYPxTgDHBU",
    "type": "message",
    "role": "assistant",
    "content": [
        {
            "type": "text",
            "text": "Sure, I'd be happy to provide..."
        }
    ],
    "stop_reason": "end_turn",
    "stop_sequence": null,
    "usage": {
      "input_tokens": 30,
      "output_tokens": 309
    }
}
```

Putting words in Claude's mouth

You can pre-fill part of Claude's response in the last position of the input messages list. This can be used to shape Claude's response. The example below uses `"max_tokens": 1` to get a single multiple choice answer from Claude.

Shell   Python   TypeScript

```sh
#!/bin/sh
curl https://api.anthropic.com/v1/messages \
     --header "x-api-key: $ANTHROPIC_API_KEY" \
     --header "anthropic-version: 2023-06-01" \
     --header "content-type: application/json" \
     --data \
'{
    "model": "claude-3-opus-20240229",
    "max_tokens": 1,
    "messages": [
        {"role": "user", "content": "What is latin for Ant? (A) Apoidea, (B) Rhopalo
        {"role": "assistant", "content": "The answer is ("}
    ]
}'
```

JSON

```json
{
  "id": "msg_01Q8Faay6S7QPTvEUUQARt7h",
  "type": "message",
  "role": "assistant",
  "content": [
    {
      "type": "text",
      "text": "C"
    }
  ],
  "model": "claude-2.1-basil",
  "stop_reason": "max_tokens",
  "stop_sequence": null,
  "usage": {
    "input_tokens": 42,
    "output_tokens": 1
  }
}
```
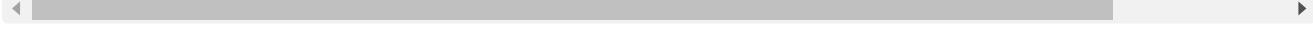
Vision

Claude can read both text and images in requests. Currently, we support the `base64` source type for images, and the `image/jpeg`, `image/png`, `image/gif`, and `image/webp` media types. See our vision guide for more details.

Shell   Python   TypeScript

```sh
#!/bin/sh

IMAGE_URL="https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a7/Camponotus_flavomargi
IMAGE_MEDIA_TYPE="image/jpeg"
IMAGE_BASE64=$(curl "$IMAGE_URL" | base64)

curl https://api.anthropic.com/v1/messages \
     --header "x-api-key: $ANTHROPIC_API_KEY" \
     --header "anthropic-version: 2023-06-01" \
     --header "content-type: application/json" \
     --data \
'{
    "model": "claude-3-opus-20240229",
    "max_tokens": 1024,
    "messages": [
        {"role": "user", "content": [
            {"type": "image", "source": {
                "type": "base64",
                "media_type": "'$IMAGE_MEDIA_TYPE'",
                "data": "'$IMAGE_BASE64'"
            }},
            {"type": "text", "text": "What is in the above image?"}
        ]}
    ]
}'
```

JSON

```json
{
  "id": "msg_01EcyWo6m4hyW8KHs2y2pei5",
  "type": "message",
  "role": "assistant",
  "content": [
    {
      "type": "text",
      "text": "This image shows an ant, specifically a close-up view of an ant. The
    }
  ],
  "model": "claude-2.1",
  "stop_reason": "end_turn",
  "stop_sequence": null,
  "usage": {
    "input_tokens": 1551,
    "output_tokens": 71
  }
}
```

[beta] Tool use and JSON mode

See our beta guide for examples for how to use tools with the Messages API.

🕐 **Updated 4 days ago**

← **Migrating from Text Completions**   **Text Completions** →

Did this page help you?   👍 **Yes**   👎 **No**