

API Design Best Practices

RESTful API design follows standard conventions to create intuitive and maintainable interfaces.

Design Principles:

- Use nouns for resources, not verbs
- Use HTTP methods appropriately (GET, POST, PUT, DELETE)
- Return appropriate HTTP status codes
- Version your APIs
- Provide clear error messages
- Use consistent naming conventions

Common Patterns:

- Resource-based URLs (/users, /orders)
- Query parameters for filtering
- Pagination for large datasets
- Rate limiting for API protection
- Authentication via tokens or API keys