

# Experimenting With The Graph API

TSL Winter 2013

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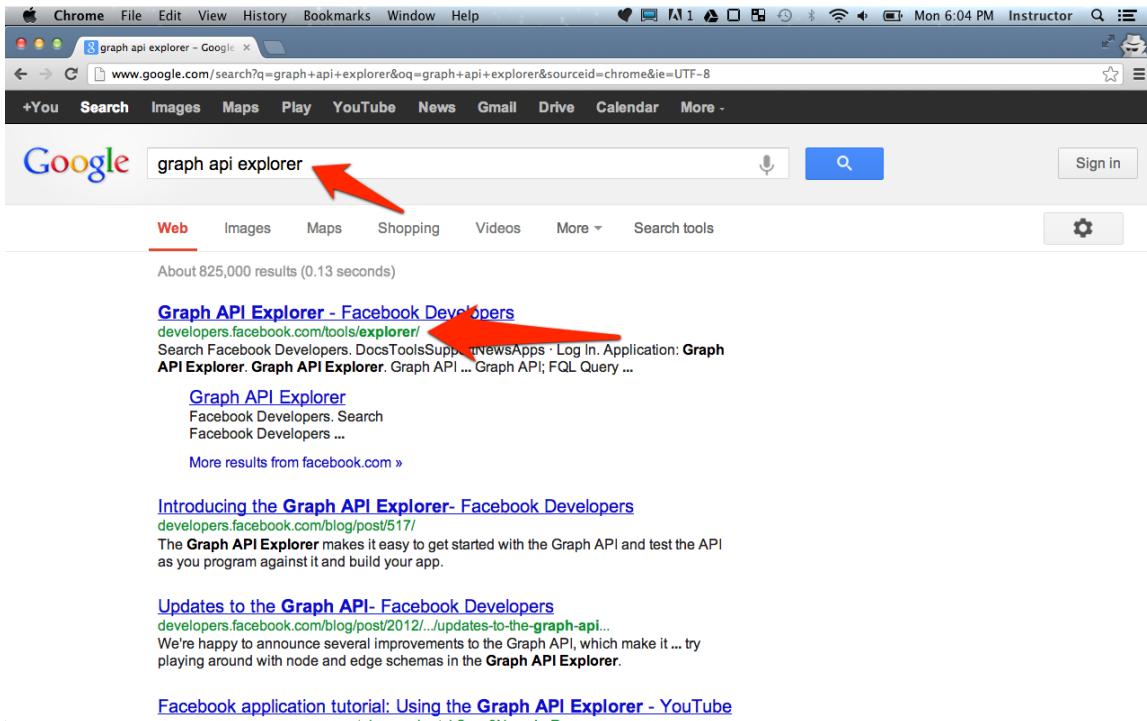
**Introducing the Graph API Explorer- Facebook Developers**  
developers.facebook.com/blog/post/517/

The Graph API Explorer makes it easy to get started with the Graph API and test the API as you program against it and build your app.

**Updates to the Graph API- Facebook Developers**  
developers.facebook.com/blog/post/2012/...Updates-to-the-graph-api...

We're happy to announce several improvements to the Graph API, which make it ... try playing around with node and edge schemas in the Graph API Explorer.

**Facebook application tutorial: Using the Graph API Explorer - YouTube**



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Graph API Explorer - Facebook

developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer/?method=GET&path=me

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**Graph API Explorer**

Home > Tools > Graph API Explorer

Application: [?] Graph API Explorer

Access Token: Paste in an existing Access Token or click 'Get Access Token' to generate one

Get Access Token

Graph API FQL Query

GET /me

1.) Try out a URL

Submit

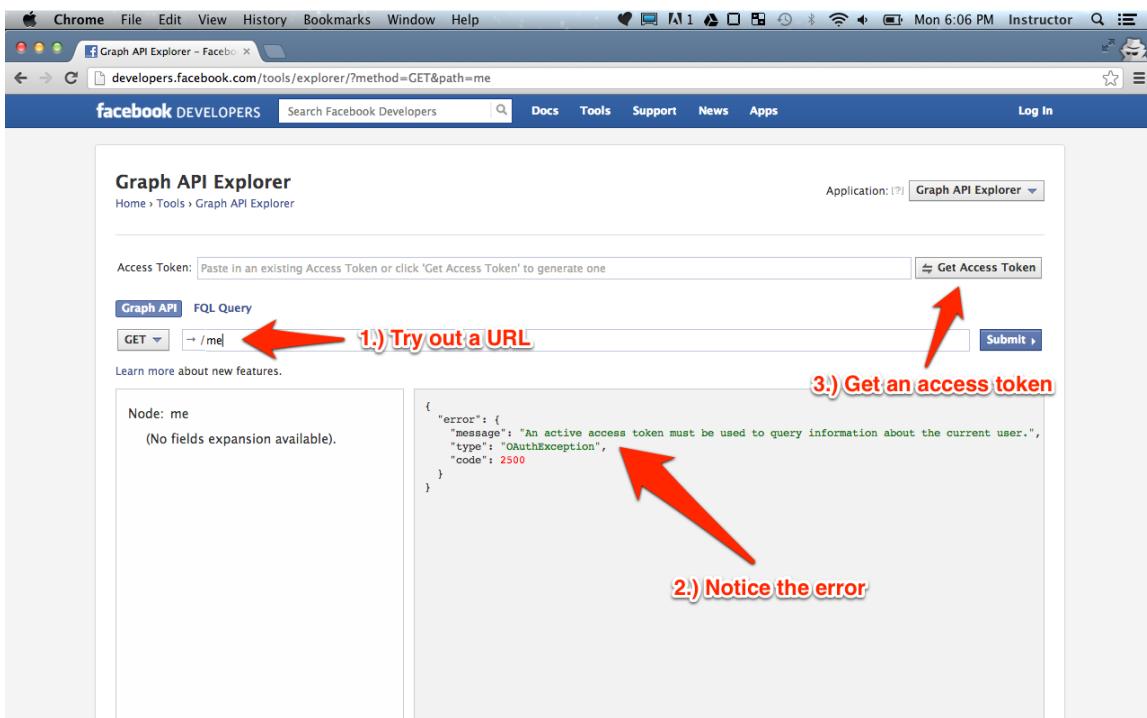
Learn more about new features.

Node: me  
(No fields expansion available).

{ "error": { "message": "An active access token must be used to query information about the current user.", "type": "OAuthException", "code": 2500 } }

3.) Get an access token

2.) Notice the error



Chrome File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help

Log In | Facebook https://www.facebook.com/login.php?next=http%3A%2F%2Fdevelopers.facebook.com%2Ftools%2Fexplorer%2F%3Fmethod%3DGET%26path%3Dme

# facebook

Sign Up Connect and share with the people in your life.

Login with your regular Facebook account

Facebook Login

You must log in to see this page.

Email or Phone: rbetina@gmail.com

Password:

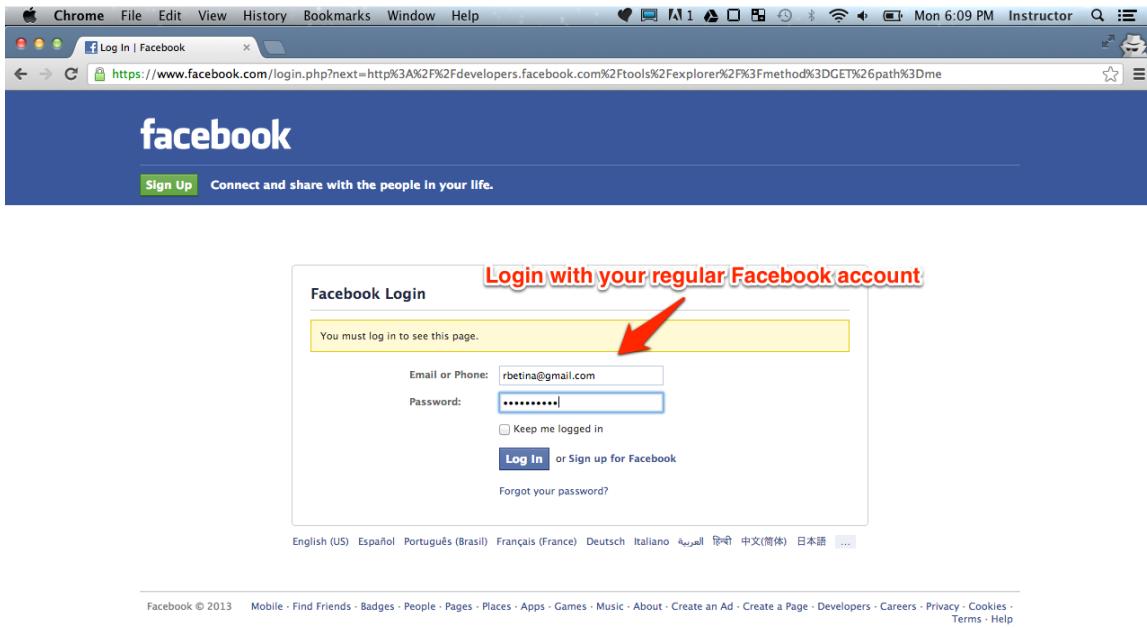
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Graph API Explorer – Facebook https://developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer/?method=GET&path=me

# facebook DEVELOPERS

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Raghuveera Betina

Graph API Explorer

Home > Tools > Graph API Explorer Application: [?] Graph API Explorer

Access Token: AAAACedEose0cBAOtX77AiRTZAhcVYfs7YdEcnZAFy15ibjTc0FwABfI8NTnRgTwjQNpgjQF5pT1VdqybZBxFjaoXFGs7hdZB

Graph API FQL Query

GET /me You should now have an access token

Learn more about new features.

Node: me

+ 

{ and see some data here representing you 

Click the + to traverse the Graph API and see what you have available to you  
- fields represent attributes about the current resource  
- connections represent lists of other resources belonging to the current resource

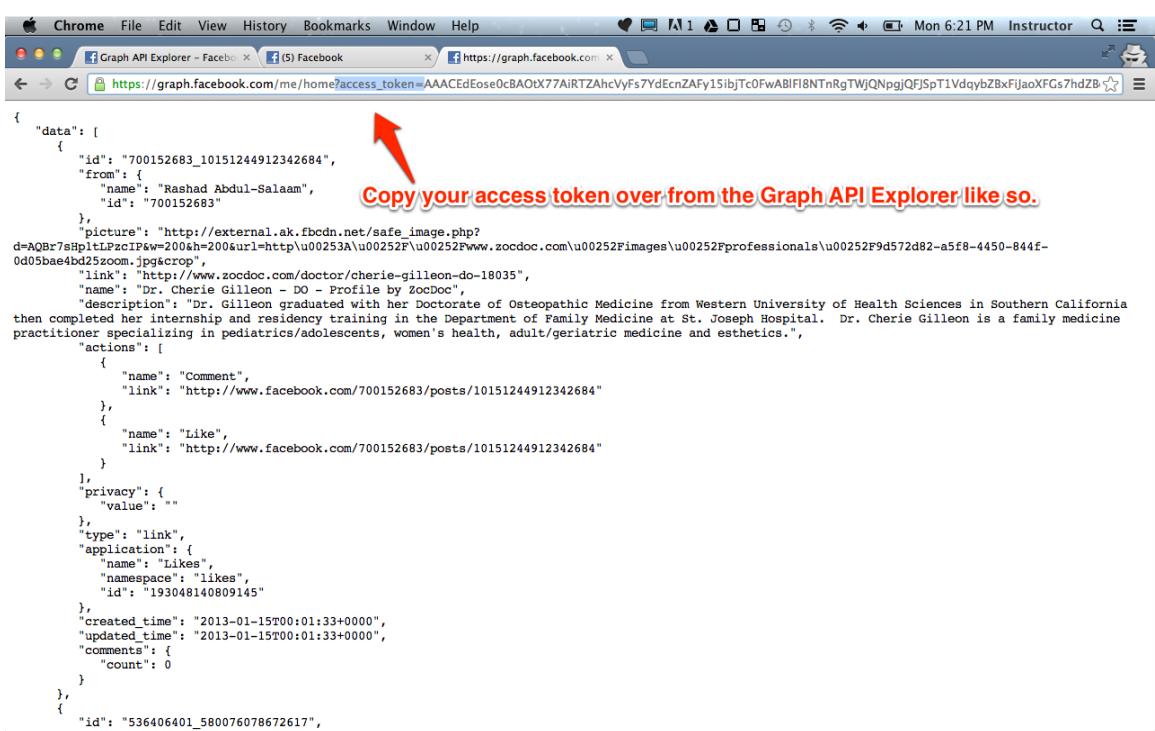
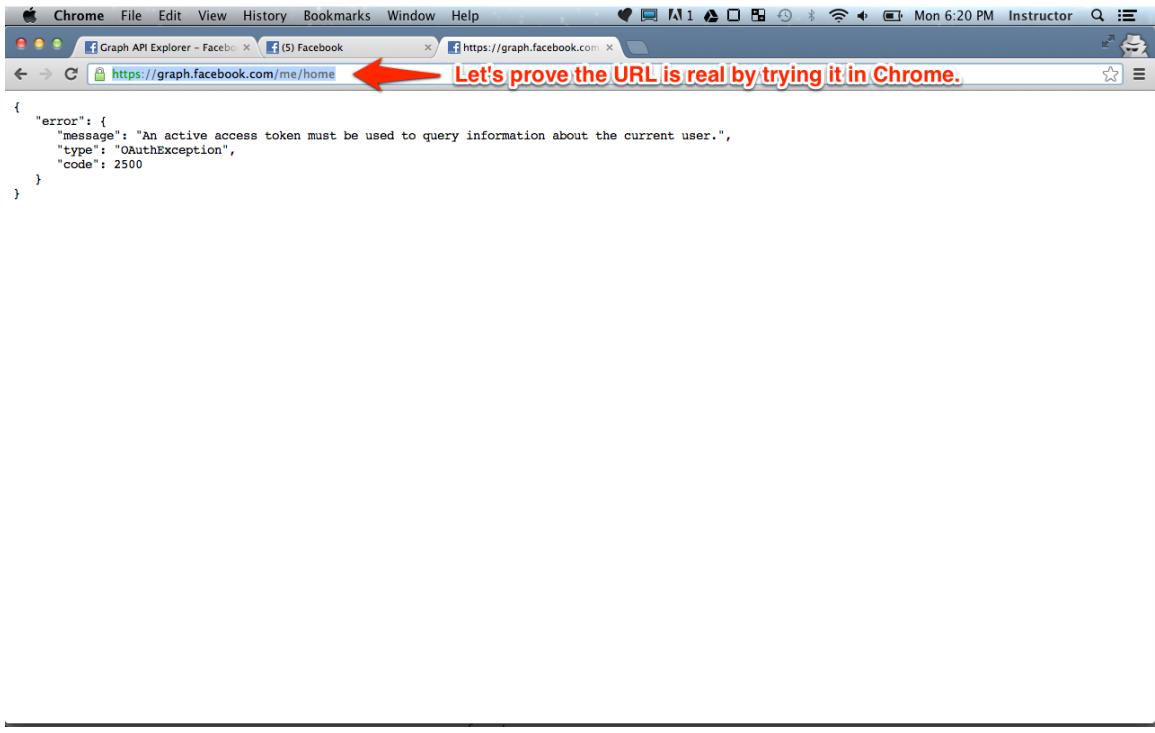
```
{
  "id": "2913578",
  "name": "Raghuveera Betina",
  "first_name": "Raghuveera",
  "last_name": "Betina",
  "link": "http://www.facebook.com/rbetina",
  "username": "rbetina",
  "birthday": "07/01/1982",
  "hometown": {
    "id": "100079036143353",
    "name": "Kurnool"
  },
  "gender": "male",
  "timezone": -6,
  "locale": "en_US",
  "verified": true,
  "updated_time": "2013-01-14T19:28:45+0000"
}
```

1.) Sometimes, the resource you want requires additional permissions. In our case, we're looking for the home feed, whose URL is /me/home

2.) Click the Get Access Token button again to request additional permissions. The one we want for /me/home is under Extended Permissions, read\_stream

Voila. Our home feed, but in a machine readable format.

```
{ "data": [ { "id": "700152683_10151244912342684", "from": { "name": "Rashad Abdul-Salaam", "id": "700152683" }, "picture": "http://external.ak.fbcdn.net/safe_image.php?d=AQBr7aHplLPzciP&w=200&h=200&url=https://www.zocdoc.com/doctor/cherie-gilleon-do-18035", "link": "http://www.facebook.com/700152683/posts/10151244912342684", "name": "Dr. Cherie Gilleon - DO - Profile by ZocDoc", "description": "Dr. Gilleon graduated with her Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. She completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Western Ontario in London, ON. Dr. Gilleon currently practices in Mississauga, ON.", "actions": [ { "name": "Comment", "link": "http://www.facebook.com/700152683/posts/10151244912342684" }, { "name": "Like", "link": "http://www.facebook.com/700152683/posts/10151244912342684" } ], "privacy": { "value": "" } } ] }
```



A screenshot of a Mac OS X desktop showing a Chrome browser window. The address bar shows 'https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/jsonview/chklaanhfefbnpoihckbnefhakgolnm?hl=en'. The main content is the 'JSONView' extension page from the Chrome Web Store. The page title is 'JSONView' with a rating of 4.2 stars and 181,709 users. A large button says 'ADDED TO CHROME'. Below the title, there's a 'OVERVIEW' tab selected. The main area displays a JSON object with several nested arrays and objects. A tooltip at the bottom of the JSON tree highlights '[0].retweeted\_status.entities.urls[0].url'. To the right of the JSON tree, there's a sidebar with instructions: 'Validate and view JSON documents', 'Original firefox extension is here: http://benhollis.net/software/jsonview/'; 'New! - Use context menu to copy the JSON path or the value - Customize the theme with the style editor (see options page)'; and 'Notes: - JSON is validated using a client-side javascript implementation of [JSONLint](http://github.com/zacharyson/jsonlint) - this extension displays JSON text compliant with rfc 4627 (http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4627.txt). - JSONP (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JSON#JSONP) is supported'. On the far right, there are thumbnails of other extensions.

A screenshot of a Mac OS X desktop showing a Chrome browser window. The address bar shows 'https://graph.facebook.com/me/home?access\_token=AAACEdEose0cBAOtX77AiRTZAhcVvFs7YdEcnaZAFy15ibjTc0FwABfI8NTnRgTwQNpgjQFJSpT1VdqybZBxFijoXFGs7hdZBcKuFnh6C'. The main content is a JSON response from the Facebook Graph API. The JSON object has a 'data' key with an array of posts. A red arrow points to the minus sign next to the 'paging' key, which is collapsed. Below the JSON tree, a tooltip says 'With the JSONView Chrome Extension, you can fold away nested elements to make the data easier to understand.' At the bottom left, another tooltip says 'Click the minus signs.' The JSON code is as follows:

```
{  
  + data: [...],  
  - paging: {  
    previous: "https://graph.facebook.com/2913578/home?  
access_token=AAACEdEose0cBAOtX77AiRTZAhcVvFs7YdEcnaZAFy15ibjTc0FwABfI8NTnRgTwQNpgjQFJSpT1VdqybZBxFijoXFGs7hdZBcKuFnh6OZDZD&limit=25&since=1358209388",  
    next: "https://graph.facebook.com/2913578/home?  
access_token=AAACEdEose0cBAOtX77AiRTZAhcVvFs7YdEcnaZAFy15ibjTc0FwABfI8NTnRgTwQNpgjQFJSpT1VdqybZBxFijoXFGs7hdZBcKuFnh6OZDZD&limit=25&until=1358176813"  
  }  
}
```

```
Terminal Shell Edit View Window Help
instructor — ruby — 70x20
Last login: Mon Jan 14 18:25:33 on ttys001

~: irb
1.9.3p194 :001 > home_url = "https://graph.facebook.com/me/home?access_token=AAACEdEose0cBA0tX77AiRTZAhcVyFs7YdEcnZAFy15ibjTc0FwABlFl8NTnRgTWjQNpgjQFJSpT1VdqybZBxFiJaoXFGs7hdZBcKuFnh6QZDZD"
=> "https://graph.facebook.com/me/home?access_token=AAACEdEose0cBA0tX77AiRTZAhcVyFs7YdEcnZAFy15ibjTc0FwABlFl8NTnRgTWjQNpgjQFJSpT1VdqybZBxFiJaoXFGs7hdZBcKuFnh6QZDZD"
1.9.3p194 :002 > █

Now to get the data into our Ruby script. First let's create a string that contains the URL of the resource that we want.
```

```
Terminal Shell Edit View Window Help
instructor — ruby — 71x20
1.9.3p362 :003 > home_url = "https://graph.facebook.com/me/home?access_token=AAACEdEose0cBAE92mZB0s0bYffobSm8jrqR6k96ZAvdKhT0A8RedomGfaaV6aU2FT8Ag2PEutsM6rGGZAZCmwLU7PYlZA411II4cNVZAjEfAZDZD"
=> "https://graph.facebook.com/me/home?access_token=AAACEdEose0cBAE92mZB0s0bYffobSm8jrqR6k96ZAvdKhT0A8RedomGfaaV6aU2FT8Ag2PEutsM6rGGZAZCmwLU7PYlZA411II4cNVZAjEfAZDZD"
1.9.3p362 :004 > require 'open-uri' ← Borrow this Ruby code to get access to the open() method which will read a remote page
=> true
1.9.3p362 :005 > home_in_json_string = open(home_url).read
=> "{\"data\": [{\"id\":\"513976375_10151235835641376\", \"from\": {\"name\": \"Nick Motil\", \"id\": \"513976375\"}, \"message\": \"Hey Philadelphia! I'll be performing at St. Joseph's University Saturday February 2! - The Perch - I'm opening the show for Landon Austin. 10pm. I'll remind you, don't fear\", \"actions\": [{\"name\": \"Comment\", \"link\": \"http://www.facebook.com/513976375/posts/10151235835641376\"}, {\"name\": \"Like\", \"link\": \"http://www.facebook.com/513976375/posts/10151235835641376\"}], \"privacy\": {\"value\": \"\"}, \"type\": \"status\", \"status_type\": \"mobile_status_update\", \"application\": {\"name\": \"Mobile\", \"id\": \"2915120374\"}, \"created_time\": \"2013-01-15T03:30:14+0000\", \"updated_time\": \"2013-01-15T03:30:14+0000\", \"likes\": {\"data\":
```

```
Terminal Shell Edit View Window Help
instructor — ruby — 71x20
1.9.3p362 :006 > home_in_json_string.class
=> String
1.9.3p362 :007 > require 'json' ← Borrow this Ruby code to get access to the
=> true JSON.parse() method which will convert a string
1.9.3p362 :008 > JSON.parse(home_in_json_string)
=> {"data"=>[{"id"=>"513976375_10151235835641376", "from"=>{"name"=>"Nick Motil", "id"=>"513976375"}, "message"=>"Hey Philadelphia! I'll be performing at St. Joseph's University Saturday February 2! - The Perch - I'm opening the show for Landon Austin. 10pm. I'll remind you, don't fear", "acLook! It's a hash rocket. The data is now a familiar Ruby hash. Now we practice drilling in to it.m/513976375/posts/10151235835641376"}, {"name"=>"Like", "link"=>"http://www.facebook.com/513976375/posts/10151235835641376"}], "privacy"=>{"value"=>""}, "type"=>"status", "status_type"=>"mobile_status_update", "application"=>{"name"=>"Mobile", "id"=>"2915120374"}, "created_time"=>"2013-01-15T03:30:14+0000", "updated_time"=>"2013-01-15T03:30:14+0000", "likes"=>{"data"=>[{"name"=>"Vanessa Waltman", "id"=>"1415149838"}, {"name"=>"Cait Nestor", "id"=>"1463070206"}], "count"=>2}, "comments"=>{"count"=>0}, {"id"=>"109590478330_437144869687404", "from"=>{"category"=>"Public figure", "name"=>"HuskyStarcraft", "id"=>"109590478330"}, "message"=>"As many of you know, I am associated with team Axiom and could not
```

```
Terminal Shell Edit View Window Help
instructor — ruby — 71x20
1.9.3p362 :010 > home_in_ruby = JSON.parse(home_in_json_string)
```

```
Terminal Shell Edit View Window Help
instructor — ruby — 71x20
1.9.3p362 :011 > home_in_ruby.class
=> Hash
1.9.3p362 :012 > home_in_ruby.keys
=> ["data", "paging"]
1.9.3p362 :013 >
```

```
Terminal Shell Edit View Window Help
instructor — ruby — 71x20
1.9.3p362 :015 > home_in_ruby.class
=> Hash
1.9.3p362 :016 > home_in_ruby.keys
=> ["data", "paging"]
1.9.3p362 :017 > posts = home_in_ruby["data"]
```

Chrome File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help

Facebook view-source-www.facebook.com https://graph.facebook.com Graph API Explorer - Facebook

[https://graph.facebook.com/me/home?access\\_token=AAACEdEose0cBAE92mZB0s0bYffobSm8JrqR6k96ZAvdKhTOA8RedomGfaaV6aU2FT8Ag2PEutsM6rGGZAZCmwLU7PYIZA](https://graph.facebook.com/me/home?access_token=AAACEdEose0cBAE92mZB0s0bYffobSm8JrqR6k96ZAvdKhTOA8RedomGfaaV6aU2FT8Ag2PEutsM6rGGZAZCmwLU7PYIZA)

```
{
  - data: [
    - {
      id: "513976375_10151235835641376",
      - from: {
        name: "Nick Motil",
        id: "513976375"
      },
      message: "Hey Philadelphia! I'll be performing at St. Joseph's University Saturday February 2! - The Perch - I'm opening the show for Landon Austin 10pm. I'll remind you, don't fear",
      - actions: [
        - {
          name: "Comment",
          link: "http://www.facebook.com/513976375/posts/10151235835641376"
        },
        - {
          name: "Like",
          link: "http://www.facebook.com/513976375/posts/10151235835641376"
        }
      ],
      - privacy: {
        value: ""
      },
      type: "status",
      status_type: "mobile_status_update",
      - application: {
        name: "Mobile",
        id: "2915120374"
      },
      created_time: "2013-01-15T03:30:14+0000",
      updated_time: "2013-01-15T03:30:14+0000",
      - likes: [
        - data: [
          - {
            name: "Vanessa Waltman",
            id: "1415149838"
          },
          - {
            name: "Oscar Sánchez"
          }
        ]
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```

data[0]

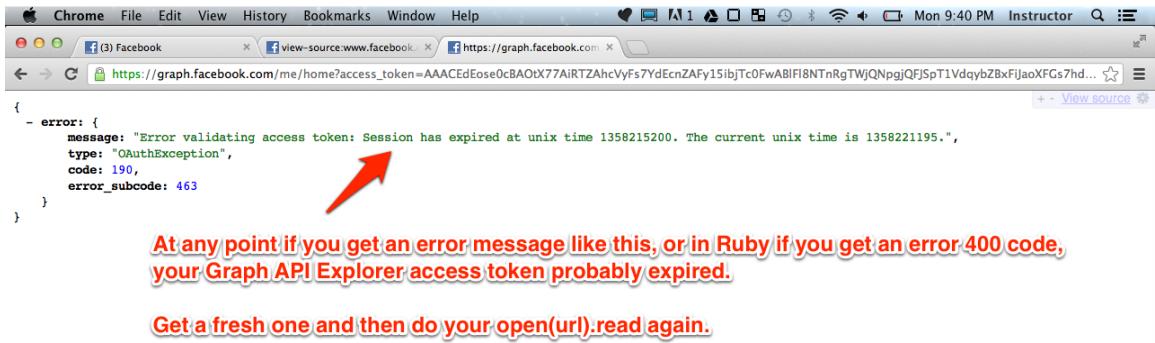
Don't forget that you can use Chrome to spelunk around and get to know your data; it is easier to look at than in IRB, since it is indented and highlighted nicely.

Terminal Shell Edit View Window Help

instructor — ruby — 71x20

```
1.9.3p362 :022 > posts.class
=> Array
1.9.3p362 :023 > posts.length
=> 25
1.9.3p362 :024 > posts[0].class
=> Hash
1.9.3p362 :025 > posts[0].keys
=> ["id", "from", "message", "actions", "privacy", "type", "status_type", "application", "created_time", "updated_time", "likes", "comments"]
1.9.3p362 :026 > posts[0]["from"]
=> {"name"=>"Nick Motil", "id"=>"513976375"}
1.9.3p362 :027 > posts[0]["from"]["name"]
=> "Nick Motil"
1.9.3p362 :028 >
```

data[0]



```
{  
  - error: {  
    message: "Error validating access token: Session has expired at unix time 1358215200. The current unix time is 1358221195.",  
    type: "OAuthException",  
    code: 190,  
    error_subcode: 463  
  }  
}  
  
At any point if you get an error message like this, or in Ruby if you get an error 400 code,  
your Graph API Explorer access token probably expired.  
  
Get a fresh one and then do your open(url).read again.
```

---

Another helpful hint: you can add another key-value pair to the query string like so:

[https://graph.facebook.com/me/home?access\\_token=YOURACCESSIONTOKEN&limit=200](https://graph.facebook.com/me/home?access_token=YOURACCESSIONTOKEN&limit=200)

This will fetch 200 posts at a time rather than the default 25.

Now that we've played around in the IRB sandbox and have a sense of what to do, let's create an actual script. In a new file, say facebook.rb, try the following:

```
require "open-uri"
require "json"

home_url = "" # fill this in with the right
URL string

home_in_json_string = open(home_url).read

home_in_ruby =
JSON.parse(home_in_json_string)

posts = home_in_ruby["data"]

# posts is an Array. Can you loop through it
to display the sharer's name and message for
each post?

posts.each do |post|
  # Your code goes here.
end

# Finally, go look at the JSON response
closely in Chrome. Is there any attribute of
a post that can help you filter for just
videos?
```

Never forget:



Have fun.