How to Make Sense of an API?

How do you learn to use a library or an API that you've never worked with before? It might take yc yourself with how the library operates, but that's okay. It's worth spending some time understanc organized, the inputs and outputs, and the general expectations of the library.

In general, a good API should be descriptive. You should be able to look at a function's name and it will do. A well-designed API will follow patterns and ***naming conventions***. That means that the should have names that help you understand what to expect from them. And when the name isn access to the documentation for each of the functions that will help you figure out what they do.

For example, when we visit the reference page for the Image object in Pillow, we see this piece of

```
from PIL import Image
im = Image.open("bride.jpg")
im.rotate(45).show()

```

This piece of code is pretty straightforward. Even without having seen this library before, you can image called bride.jpg, rotates it 45 degrees, and then shows it on the screen.

But how can we know for sure? We can look up each of the functions in the documentation and c do. When dealing with open-source libraries, we can even check out how the function is impleme expectations. For a web service API or a closed-source library, you might not have access to the u have access to the documentation that's generated by the code.

For a Python library like PIL, the code is documented using ***docstrings***. If you remember from wa docstrings are documentation that lives alongside the code. You've been using them ever since! V describe a function, or read a description of what a Python function does in your IDE, what you're in the code.

For example, let's take a look at the documentation for PIL:

```
>>> help(PIL)

Help on package PIL:

NAME
    PIL - Pillow (Fork of the Python Imaging Library)

DESCRIPTION
    Pillow is the friendly PIL fork by Alex Clark and Contributors.
        https://github.com/python-pillow/Pillow/
```