

Rails is popularly known for building web applications. Chances are if you're reading this you've built a traditional server-rendered web application with Rails before. If not, I'd highly recommend going through the [Getting Started with Rails](#) page to familiarize yourself with the Rails framework before proceeding with this tutorial.

Prerequisites

Project Setup

Models

Controllers

Conclusion

As of version 5, Rails core now supports API only applications! In previous versions, we relied on an external gem: [rails-api](#) which has since been merged to core rails.

API only applications are slimmed down compared to traditional Rails web applications. According to [Rails 5 release notes](#), generating an API only application will:

- Start the application with a limited set of middleware
- Make the `ApplicationController` inherit from `ActionController::API` instead of `ActionController::Base`
- Skip generation of view files

This works to generate an API-centric framework excluding functionality that would otherwise be unused and unnecessary.

In this three-part tutorial, we'll build a todo list API where users can manage their to-do lists and todo items.

## Prerequisites

Before we begin, make sure you have ruby version  $\geq 2.2.2$  and rails version 5.

```
$ ruby -v # ruby 2.3.0p0 (2015-12-25 revision 53290) [x86_64-darwin16]
$ rails -v # Rails 5.0.1
```

If your ruby version is not up to date, you can update it with a ruby version manager like [rvm](#) or [rbenv](#).

```
# when using rbenv
$ rbenv install 2.3.1
# set 2.3.1 as the global version
$ rbenv global 2.3.1
```

```
# when using rvm
$ rvm install 2.3.1
# set 2.3.1 as the global version
$ rvm use 2.3.1
```

If your rails version is not up to date, update to the latest version by running:

```
$ gem update rails
```

All good? Let's get started!

## API Endpoints

Our API will expose the following RESTful endpoints.

Endpoint	Functionality
POST /signup	Signup
POST /auth/login	Login
GET /auth/logout	Logout
GET /todos	List all todos

POST /todos	Create a new todo
GET /todos/:id	Get a todo
PUT /todos/:id	Update a todo
DELETE /todos/:id	Delete a todo and its items
GET /todos/:id/items	Get a todo item
PUT /todos/:id/items	Update a todo item
DELETE /todos/:id/items	Delete a todo item

Part One will Cover:

- Project setup
- Todos API
- TodoItems API

## Project Setup

Generate a new project `todos-api` by running:

```
$ rails new todos-api --api -T
```

Note that we're using the `--api` argument to tell Rails that we want an API application and `-T` to exclude Minitest the default testing framework. Don't freak out, we're going to write tests. We'll be using RSpec instead to test our API. I find RSpec to be more expressive and easier to start with as compared to Minitest.

## Dependencies

Let's take a moment to review the gems that we'll be using.

- `rspec-rails` - Testing framework.
- `factory_bot_rails` - A fixtures replacement with a more straightforward syntax. You'll see.
- `shoulda_matchers` - Provides RSpec with additional matchers.
- `database_cleaner` - You guessed it! It literally cleans our test database to ensure a clean state in each test suite.
- `faker` - A library for generating fake data. We'll use this to generate test data.

All good? Great! Let's set them up. In your `Gemfile` :

Add `rspec-rails` to both the `:development` and `:test` groups.

```
# Gemfile
group :development, :test do
  gem 'rspec-rails', '~> 3.5'
end
```

This is a handy shorthand to include a gem in multiple environments.

Add `factory_bot_rails` , `shoulda_matchers` , `faker` and `database_cleaner` to the `:test` group.

```
# Gemfile
group :test do
  gem 'factory_bot_rails', '~> 4.0'
  gem 'shoulda-matchers', '~> 3.1'
  gem 'faker'
  gem 'database_cleaner'
end
```

Install the gems by running:

```
$ bundle install
```

Initialize the `spec` directory (where our tests will reside).

```
$ rails generate rspec:install
```

This adds the following files which are used for configuration:

- `.rspec`
- `spec/spec_helper.rb`
- `spec/rails_helper.rb`

Create a `factories` directory (factory bot uses this as the default directory). This is where we'll define the model factories.

```
$ mkdir spec/factories
```

## Configuration

In `spec/rails_helper.rb`

```
# require database cleaner at the top level
require 'database_cleaner'

# [...]
# configure shoulda matchers to use rspec as the test framework and fu
Shoulda::Matchers.configure do |config|
  config.integrate do |with|
    with.test_framework :rspec
    with.library :rails
  end
end

# [...]
RSpec.configure do |config|
  # [...]
  # add `FactoryBot` methods
  config.include FactoryBot::Syntax::Methods

  # start by truncating all the tables but then use the faster transac
```

```
config.before(:suite) do
  DatabaseCleaner.clean_with(:truncation)
  DatabaseCleaner.strategy = :transaction
end

# start the transaction strategy as examples are run
config.around(:each) do |example|
  DatabaseCleaner.cleaning do
    example.run
  end
end
# [...]
end
```

Phew! That was a rather long. Good thing is, it's a smooth ride from here on out.

## Models

Let's start by generating the `Todo` model

```
$ rails g model Todo title:string created_by:string
```

Notice that we've included the model attributes in the model generation command. This way we don't have to edit the migration file. The generator invokes `active record` and `rspec` to generate the migration, model, and spec respectively.



```
# db/migrate/[timestamp]_create_todos.rb
class CreateTodos < ActiveRecord::Migration[5.0]

  def change
    create_table :todos do |t|
      t.string :title
      t.string :created_by

      t.timestamps
    end
  end
end
```

And now the `Item` model

```
$ rails g model Item name:string done:boolean todo:references
```

By adding `todo:references` we're telling the generator to set up an association with the `Todo` model. This will do the following:

- Add a foreign key column `todo_id` to the `items` table
- Setup a `belongs_to` association in the `Item` model

```
# db/migrate/[timestamp]_create_items.rb
class CreateItems < ActiveRecord::Migration[5.0]
  def change
    create_table :items do |t|
```

```

      t.string :name
      t.boolean :done
      t.references :todo, foreign_key: true

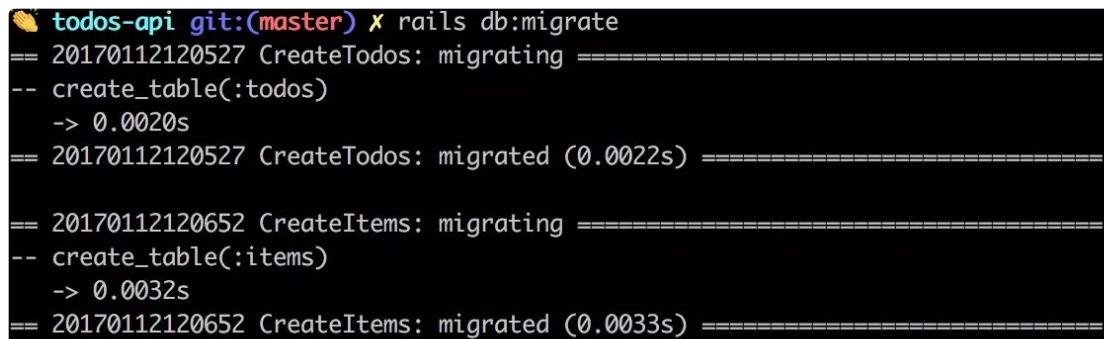
      t.timestamps
    end

  end
end

```

Looks good? Let's run the migrations.

```
$ rails db:migrate
```



```

🍌 todos-api git:(master) ✗ rails db:migrate
== 20170112120527 CreateTodos: migrating =====
-- create_table(:todos)
   -> 0.0020s
== 20170112120527 CreateTodos: migrated (0.0022s) =====

== 20170112120652 CreateItems: migrating =====
-- create_table(:items)
   -> 0.0032s
== 20170112120652 CreateItems: migrated (0.0033s) =====

```

We're Test Driven, let's write the model specs first.

```

# spec/models/todo_spec.rb
require 'rails_helper'

```

```

# Test suite for the Todo model
RSpec.describe Todo, type: :model do
  # Association test
  # ensure Todo model has a 1:m relationship with the Item model
  it { should have_many(:items).dependent(:destroy) }
  # Validation tests
  # ensure columns title and created_by are present before saving
  it { should validate_presence_of(:title) }
  it { should validate_presence_of(:created_by) }
end

```

RSpec has a very expressive DSL (Domain Specific Language). You can almost read the tests like a paragraph. Remember our shoulda matchers gem? It provides RSpec with the nifty association and validation matchers above.

```

# spec/models/item_spec.rb
require 'rails_helper'

# Test suite for the Item model
RSpec.describe Item, type: :model do
  # Association test
  # ensure an item record belongs to a single todo record
  it { should belong_to(:todo) }
  # Validation test
  # ensure column name is present before saving
  it { should validate_presence_of(:name) }
end

```

Let's execute the specs by running:

```
$ bundle exec rspec
```

And to no surprise, we have only one test passing and four failures. Let's go ahead and fix the failures.

```
# app/models/todo.rb
class Todo < ApplicationRecord
  # model association
  has_many :items, dependent: :destroy

  # validations
  validates_presence_of :title, :created_by
end
```

```
# app/models/item.rb
class Item < ApplicationRecord
  # model association
  belongs_to :todo

  # validation
  validates_presence_of :name
end
```

At this point run the tests again and...

voila! All green.

## Controllers

Now that our models are all setup, let's generate the controllers.

```
$ rails g controller Todos
$ rails g controller Items
```

You guessed it! Tests first... with a slight twist. Generating controllers by default generates controller specs. However, we won't be writing any controller specs. We're going to write [request specs](#) instead.

Request specs are designed to drive behavior through the full stack, including routing. This means they can hit the applications' HTTP endpoints as opposed to controller specs which call methods directly. Since we're building an API application, this is exactly the kind of behavior we want from our tests.

According to [RSpec](#), the official recommendation of the Rails team and the RSpec core team is to write request specs instead.

Add a [requests](#) folder to the [spec](#) directory with the corresponding spec files.

```
$ mkdir spec/requests && touch spec/requests/{todos_spec.rb,items_spec
```

Before we define the request specs, Let's add the model factories which will provide the test data.

Add the factory files:

```
$ touch spec/factories/{todos.rb,items.rb}
```

Define the factories.

```
# spec/factories/todos.rb
FactoryBot.define do
  factory :todo do
    title { Faker::Lorem.word }
    created_by { Faker::Number.number(10) }
  end
end
```

By wrapping faker methods in a block, we ensure that faker generates dynamic data every time the factory is invoked. This way, we always have unique data.

```
# spec/factories/items.rb
FactoryBot.define do
  factory :item do
    name { Faker::StarWars.character }
    done false
    todo_id nil
  end
end
```

```
end  
end
```

## Todo API

```
# spec/requests/todos_spec.rb  
require 'rails_helper'  
  
RSpec.describe 'Todos API', type: :request do  
  # initialize test data  
  let!(:todos) { create_list(:todo, 10) }  
  let(:todo_id) { todos.first.id }  
  
  # Test suite for GET /todos  
  describe 'GET /todos' do  
    # make HTTP get request before each example  
    before { get '/todos' }  
  
    it 'returns todos' do  
      # Note `json` is a custom helper to parse JSON responses  
      expect(json).not_to be_empty  
      expect(json.size).to eq(10)  
    end  
  
    it 'returns status code 200' do  
      expect(response).to have_http_status(200)  
    end  
  end  
end  
  
# Test suite for GET /todos/:id  
describe 'GET /todos/:id' do  
  before { get "/todos/#{todo_id}" }
```



```

context 'when the record exists' do
  it 'returns the todo' do
    expect(json).not_to be_empty
    expect(json['id']).to eq(todo_id)
  end

  it 'returns status code 200' do
    expect(response).to have_http_status(200)
  end
end

context 'when the record does not exist' do
  let(:todo_id) { 100 }

  it 'returns status code 404' do
    expect(response).to have_http_status(404)
  end

  it 'returns a not found message' do
    expect(response.body).to match(/Couldn't find Todo/)
  end
end

end

# Test suite for POST /todos
describe 'POST /todos' do
  # valid payload
  let(:valid_attributes) { { title: 'Learn Elm', created_by: '1' } }

  context 'when the request is valid' do
    before { post '/todos', params: valid_attributes }

    it 'creates a todo' do
      expect(json['title']).to eq('Learn Elm')
    end

    it 'returns status code 201' do
      expect(response).to have_http_status(201)
    end
  end
end

```

```

end

context 'when the request is invalid' do
  before { post '/todos', params: { title: 'Foobar' } }

  it 'returns status code 422' do
    expect(response).to have_http_status(422)
  end

  it 'returns a validation failure message' do
    expect(response.body)
      .to match(/Validation failed: Created by can't be blank/)
  end
end
end

# Test suite for PUT /todos/:id
describe 'PUT /todos/:id' do
  let(:valid_attributes) { { title: 'Shopping' } }

  context 'when the record exists' do
    before { put "/todos/#{todo_id}", params: valid_attributes }

    it 'updates the record' do
      expect(response.body).to be_empty
    end

    it 'returns status code 204' do
      expect(response).to have_http_status(204)
    end
  end
end

# Test suite for DELETE /todos/:id
describe 'DELETE /todos/:id' do
  before { delete "/todos/#{todo_id}" }

  it 'returns status code 204' do
    expect(response).to have_http_status(204)
  end
end

```

```
    end
  end
end
```

We start by populating the database with a list of 10 todo records (thanks to factory bot). We also have a custom helper method `json` which parses the JSON response to a Ruby Hash which is easier to work with in our tests. Let's define it in `spec/support/request_spec_helper` .

Add the directory and file:

```
$ mkdir spec/support && touch spec/support/request_spec_helper.rb
```

```
# spec/support/request_spec_helper
module RequestSpecHelper
  # Parse JSON response to ruby hash
  def json
    JSON.parse(response.body)
  end
end
```

The support directory is not autoloaded by default. To enable this, open the rails helper and comment out the support directory auto-loading and then include it as shared module for all request specs in the RSpec configuration block.

```
# spec/rails_helper.rb
# [...]
Dir[Rails.root.join('spec/support/**/*.rb')].each { |f| require f }
# [...]
RSpec.configuration do |config|
  # [...]
  config.include RequestSpecHelper, type: :request
  # [...]
end
```

Run the tests.

We get failing routing errors. This is because we haven't defined the routes yet. Go ahead and define them in `config/routes.rb`.

```
# config/routes.rb
Rails.application.routes.draw do
```

```
resources :todos do
  resources :items
end
end
```

In our route definition, we're creating todo resource with a nested items resource. This enforces the 1:m (one to many) associations at the routing level. To view the routes, you can run:

```
$ rails routes
```

When we run the tests we see that the routing error is gone. As expected we have controller failures. Let's go ahead and define the controller methods.

```
# app/controllers/todos_controller.rb
class TodosController < ApplicationController
  before_action :set_todo, only: [:show, :update, :destroy]

  # GET /todos
  def index
    @todos = Todo.all
    json_response(@todos)
  end

  # POST /todos
  def create
    @todo = Todo.create!(todo_params)
    json_response(@todo, :created)
  end
end
```

```

end

# GET /todos/:id
def show
  json_response(@todo)
end

# PUT /todos/:id
def update
  @todo.update(todo_params)
  head :no_content
end

# DELETE /todos/:id
def destroy
  @todo.destroy
  head :no_content
end

private

def todo_params
  # whitelist params
  params.permit(:title, :created_by)
end

def set_todo
  @todo = Todo.find(params[:id])
end
end

```

More helpers. Yay! This time we have:

- `json_response` which does... yes, responds with JSON and an HTTP status code (200 by default). We can define this method in concerns folder.

```
# app/controllers/concerns/response.rb
module Response
  def json_response(object, status = :ok)
    render json: object, status: status
  end
end
```

- `set_todo` - callback method to find a todo by id. In the case where the record does not exist, ActiveRecord will throw an exception `ActiveRecord::RecordNotFound`. We'll rescue from this exception and return a `404` message.

```
# app/controllers/concerns/exception_handler.rb
module ExceptionHandler
  # provides the more graceful `included` method
  extend ActiveSupport::Concern

  included do
    rescue_from ActiveRecord::RecordNotFound do |e|
      json_response({ message: e.message }, :not_found)
    end

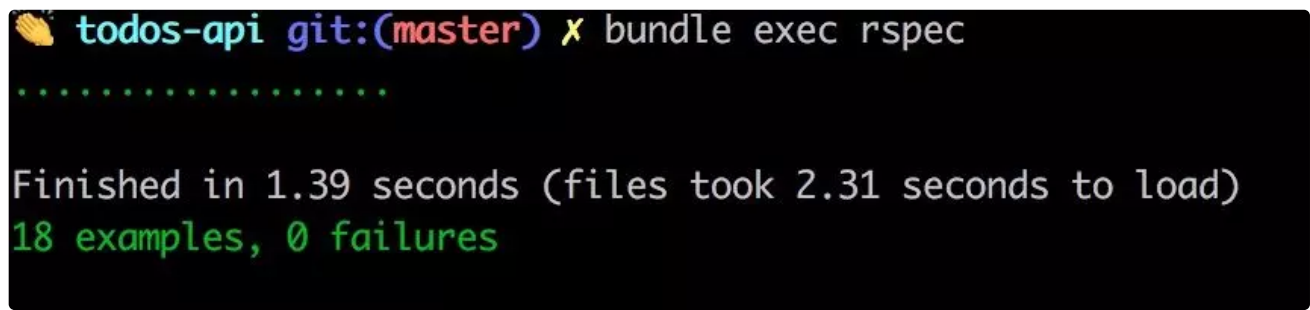
    rescue_from ActiveRecord::RecordInvalid do |e|
      json_response({ message: e.message }, :unprocessable_entity)
    end
  end
end
```

In our `create` method in the `TodosController`, note that we're using `create!` instead of `create`. This way, the model will raise an exception `ActiveRecord::RecordInvalid`. This way, we can avoid deep nested if statements in the controller. Thus, we rescue from this exception in the `ExceptionHandler` module.

However, our controller classes don't know about these helpers yet. Let's fix that by including these modules in the application controller.

```
# app/controllers/application_controller.rb
class ApplicationController < ActionController::API
  include Response
  include ExceptionHandler
end
```

Run the tests and everything's all green!

A terminal window with a dark background. The prompt is a yellow hand icon followed by 'todos-api git:(master)'. The command 'bundle exec rspec' has been executed. The output shows a series of green dots representing passing tests. Below the dots, it says 'Finished in 1.39 seconds (files took 2.31 seconds to load)' and '18 examples, 0 failures' in green text.

```
👉 todos-api git:(master) X bundle exec rspec
.....

Finished in 1.39 seconds (files took 2.31 seconds to load)
18 examples, 0 failures
```

Let's fire up the server for some good old manual testing.

```
$ rails s
```



Now let's go ahead and make requests to the API. I'll be using [httpie](#) as my HTTP client.

```
# GET /todos
$ http :3000/todos
# POST /todos
$ http POST :3000/todos title=Mozart created_by=1
# PUT /todos/:id
$ http PUT :3000/todos/1 title=Beethoven
# DELETE /todos/:id
$ http DELETE :3000/todos/1
```

You should see similar output.

```
...und/todos-api (zah)
# todos-api git:(master) x http :3000/todos
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Cache-Control: max-age=0, private, must-revalidate
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
ETag: W/"4f53cda18c2baa0c0354bb5f9a3ecbe5"
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: 5d1dbacc-1dcc-43b1-840a-527cfbaf5ec6
X-Response-Time: 0.837939
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

[]

# todos-api git:(master) x http POST :3000/todos title=Mozart created_by=1
HTTP/1.1 201 Created
Cache-Control: max-age=0, private, must-revalidate
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
ETag: W/"0a09d9923fca7c3a08041f4557126c81"
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: 5c3a402a-e291-44ee-8763-61781a77ae36
X-Response-Time: 0.021586
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

{
  "created_at": "2017-01-12T17:06:36.581Z",
  "created_by": "1",
  "id": 1,
  "title": "Mozart",
  "updated_at": "2017-01-12T17:06:36.581Z"
}

# todos-api git:(master) x http :3000/todos
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Cache-Control: max-age=0, private, must-revalidate
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
ETag: W/"0a575e96bf67b052206a29bb50e43777"
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: be42737c-682a-4f40-a089-62ac921baffb
X-Response-Time: 0.003894
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

[
  {
    "created_at": "2017-01-12T17:06:36.581Z",
    "created_by": "1",
    "id": 1,
    "title": "Mozart",
    "updated_at": "2017-01-12T17:06:36.581Z"
  }
]

# todos-api git:(master) x _

# todos-api git:(master) x http PUT :3000/todos/1 title=Beethoven
HTTP/1.1 204 No Content
Cache-Control: no-cache
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: d1a13cf7-ea3d-4e7b-8317-63cae8bfaf4c
X-Response-Time: 0.018611
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

# todos-api git:(master) x http :3000/todos
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Cache-Control: max-age=0, private, must-revalidate
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
ETag: W/"85b6f9e844e943b132bf96217fe3f127"
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: cc757266-a56a-493e-9bd9-71a8efa36d74
X-Response-Time: 0.002758
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

[
  {
    "created_at": "2017-01-12T17:06:36.581Z",
    "created_by": "1",
    "id": 1,
    "title": "Beethoven",
    "updated_at": "2017-01-12T17:07:25.519Z"
  }
]

# todos-api git:(master) x http DELETE :3000/todos/1
HTTP/1.1 204 No Content
Cache-Control: no-cache
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: 506e3d47-fa04-418c-8997-c1a806059bf2
X-Response-Time: 0.075647
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

# todos-api git:(master) x http :3000/todos
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Cache-Control: max-age=0, private, must-revalidate
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
ETag: W/"4f53cda18c2baa0c0354bb5f9a3ecbe5"
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: 1218bcb5-br0f-445e-8a3b-3ee088a017be
X-Response-Time: 0.002466
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

[]

# todos-api git:(master) x _
```

## TodoItems API

```
# spec/requests/items_spec.rb
require 'rails_helper'
```

```
RSpec.describe 'Items API' do
  # Initialize the test data
  let!(:todo) { create(:todo) }
  let!(:items) { create_list(:item, 20, todo_id: todo.id) }
  let(:todo_id) { todo.id }
  let(:id) { items.first.id }

  # Test suite for GET /todos/:todo_id/items
  describe 'GET /todos/:todo_id/items' do
    before { get "/todos/#{todo_id}/items" }
```

```

context 'when todo exists' do
  it 'returns status code 200' do
    expect(response).to have_http_status(200)
  end

  it 'returns all todo items' do
    expect(json.size).to eq(20)
  end
end

context 'when todo does not exist' do
  let(:todo_id) { 0 }

  it 'returns status code 404' do
    expect(response).to have_http_status(404)
  end

  it 'returns a not found message' do
    expect(response.body).to match(/Couldn't find Todo/)
  end
end

end

# Test suite for GET /todos/:todo_id/items/:id
describe 'GET /todos/:todo_id/items/:id' do
  before { get "/todos/#{todo_id}/items/#{id}" }

  context 'when todo item exists' do
    it 'returns status code 200' do
      expect(response).to have_http_status(200)
    end

    it 'returns the item' do
      expect(json['id']).to eq(id)
    end
  end

  context 'when todo item does not exist' do
    let(:id) { 0 }
  end
end

```

```

    it 'returns status code 404' do
      expect(response).to have_http_status(404)
    end

    it 'returns a not found message' do
      expect(response.body).to match(/Couldn't find Item/)
    end
  end
end

# Test suite for PUT /todos/:todo_id/items
describe 'POST /todos/:todo_id/items' do
  let(:valid_attributes) { { name: 'Visit Narnia', done: false } }

  context 'when request attributes are valid' do
    before { post "/todos/#{todo_id}/items", params: valid_attributes }

    it 'returns status code 201' do
      expect(response).to have_http_status(201)
    end
  end

  context 'when an invalid request' do
    before { post "/todos/#{todo_id}/items", params: {} }

    it 'returns status code 422' do
      expect(response).to have_http_status(422)
    end

    it 'returns a failure message' do
      expect(response.body).to match(/Validation failed: Name can't )
    end
  end
end

# Test suite for PUT /todos/:todo_id/items/:id
describe 'PUT /todos/:todo_id/items/:id' do
  let(:valid_attributes) { { name: 'Mozart' } }

```

```

before { put "/todos/#{todo_id}/items/#{id}", params: valid_attribu

context 'when item exists' do
  it 'returns status code 204' do
    expect(response).to have_http_status(204)
  end

  it 'updates the item' do
    updated_item = Item.find(id)
    expect(updated_item.name).to match(/Mozart/)
  end
end

context 'when the item does not exist' do
  let(:id) { 0 }

  it 'returns status code 404' do
    expect(response).to have_http_status(404)
  end

  it 'returns a not found message' do
    expect(response.body).to match(/Couldn't find Item/)
  end
end

end

# Test suite for DELETE /todos/:id
describe 'DELETE /todos/:id' do
  before { delete "/todos/#{todo_id}/items/#{id}" }

  it 'returns status code 204' do
    expect(response).to have_http_status(204)
  end
end

end
end

```

As expected, running the tests at this point should output failing todo item tests. Let's define the todo items controller.

```
# app/controllers/items_controller.rb
class ItemsController < ApplicationController
  before_action :set_todo
  before_action :set_todo_item, only: [:show, :update, :destroy]

  # GET /todos/:todo_id/items
  def index
    json_response(@todo.items)
  end

  # GET /todos/:todo_id/items/:id
  def show
    json_response(@item)
  end

  # POST /todos/:todo_id/items
  def create
    @todo.items.create!(item_params)
    json_response(@todo, :created)
  end

  # PUT /todos/:todo_id/items/:id
  def update
    @item.update(item_params)
    head :no_content
  end

  # DELETE /todos/:todo_id/items/:id
  def destroy
    @item.destroy
    head :no_content
  end
end
```

```

private

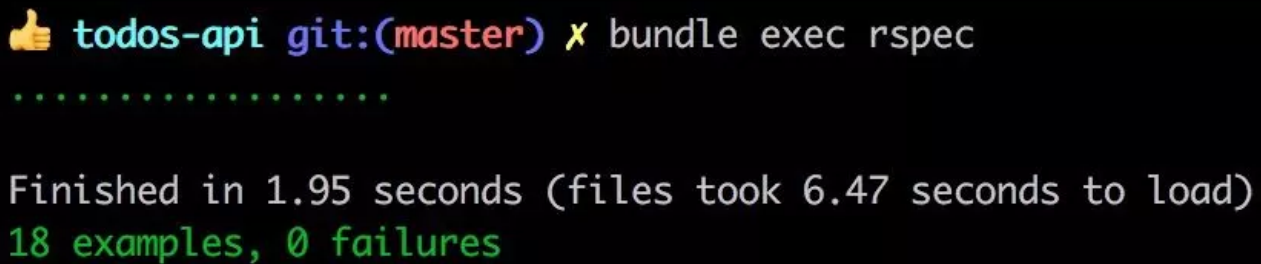
def item_params
  params.permit(:name, :done)
end

def set_todo
  @todo = Todo.find(params[:todo_id])
end

def set_todo_item
  @item = @todo.items.find_by!(id: params[:id]) if @todo
end
end

```

Run the tests.



```

👍 todos-api git:(master) x bundle exec rspec
.....

Finished in 1.95 seconds (files took 6.47 seconds to load)
18 examples, 0 failures

```

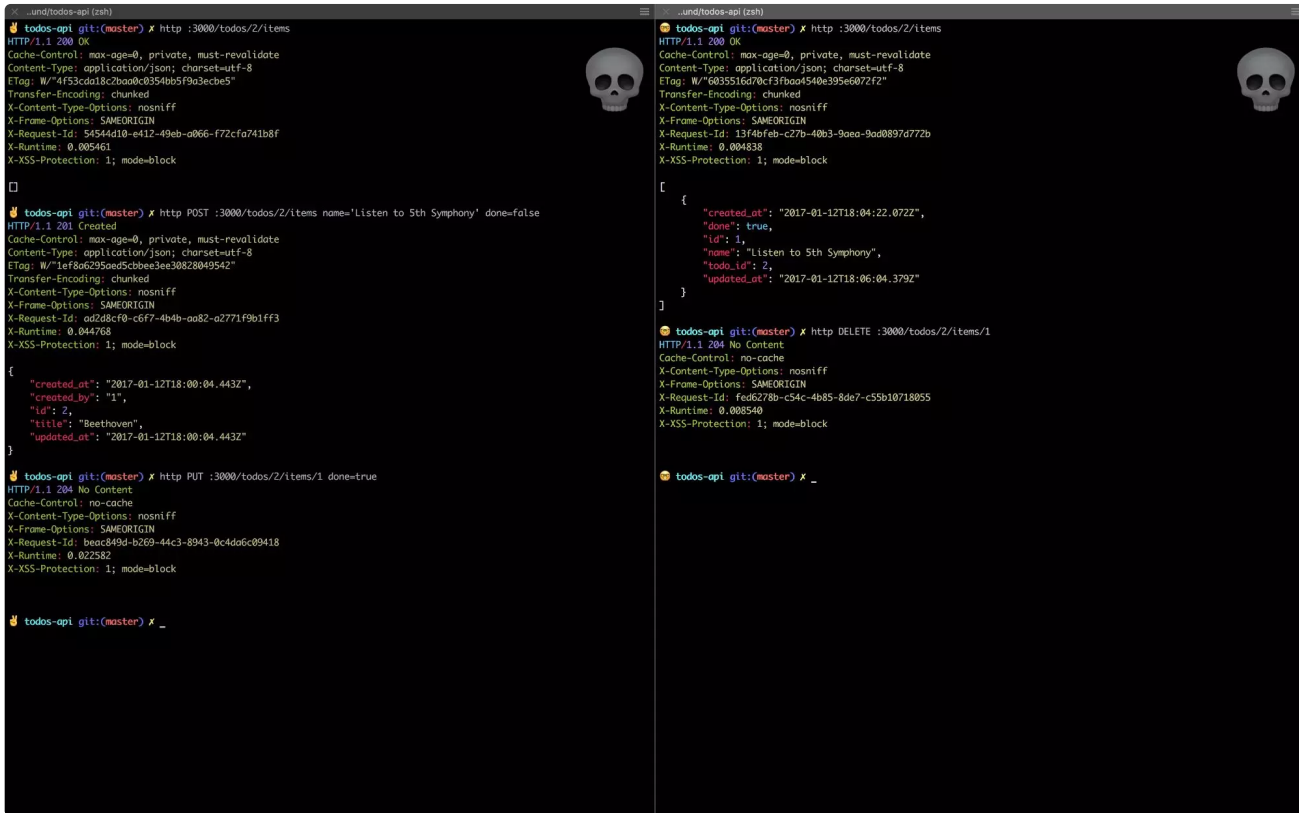
Run some manual tests for the todo items API:

```

# GET /todos/:todo_id/items
$ http :3000/todos/2/items
# POST /todos/:todo_id/items
$ http POST :3000/todos/2/items name='Listen to 5th Symphony' done=false
# PUT /todos/:todo_id/items/:id

```

```
$ http PUT :3000/todos/2/items/1 done=true
# DELETE /todos/:todo_id/items/1
$ http DELETE :3000/todos/2/items/1
```



```
...und/todos-api (zsh)
$ todos-api git:(master) http :3000/todos/2/items
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Cache-Control: max-age=0, private, must-revalidate
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
ETag: W/"4f53cd18c2ba0c0354b5f9a3e3e3c5"
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: 5454d10-e412-49eb-a066-f72cfa741b8f
X-Response-Time: 0.009461
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

[ ]

$ todos-api git:(master) http POST :3000/todos/2/items name='Listen to 5th Symphony' done=false
HTTP/1.1 201 Created
Cache-Control: max-age=0, private, must-revalidate
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
ETag: W/"1ef8a6295aed5cbb3ee30828049542"
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: ad2d8cf0-c6f7-4b4b-a082-c2771f9b1ff3
X-Response-Time: 0.044768
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

{
  "created_at": "2017-01-12T18:00:04.443Z",
  "created_by": "1",
  "id": 2,
  "title": "Beethoven",
  "updated_at": "2017-01-12T18:00:04.443Z"
}

$ todos-api git:(master) http PUT :3000/todos/2/items/1 done=true
HTTP/1.1 204 No Content
Cache-Control: no-cache
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: beac849d-b269-44c3-8943-0c4d96c09418
X-Response-Time: 0.022582
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

$ todos-api git:(master) _

...und/todos-api (zsh)
$ todos-api git:(master) http :3000/todos/2/items
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Cache-Control: max-age=0, private, must-revalidate
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
ETag: W/"6035516d70cf3fba04540c395e6072f2"
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: 13f4bfeb-c27b-40b3-9aed-9ad0897d772b
X-Response-Time: 0.004838
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

[
  {
    "created_at": "2017-01-12T18:04:22.072Z",
    "done": true,
    "id": 1,
    "name": "Listen to 5th Symphony",
    "todo_id": 2,
    "updated_at": "2017-01-12T18:06:04.379Z"
  }
]

$ todos-api git:(master) http DELETE :3000/todos/2/items/1
HTTP/1.1 204 No Content
Cache-Control: no-cache
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
X-Request-Id: fed6278b-c54c-4b85-8da7-c55b10718055
X-Response-Time: 0.008540
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

$ todos-api git:(master) _
```

## Conclusion

That's it for part one! At this point you should have learned how to:

- Generate an API application with Rails 5
- Setup **RSpec** testing framework with **Factory Bot** , **Database Cleaner** , **Shoulda Matchers** and **Faker** .
- Build models and controllers with TDD (Test Driven Development).
- Make HTTP requests to an API with [httpie](#).



In the [next part](#), we'll cover [authentication](#) with [JWT](#), [pagination](#) , and [API versioning](#) . Hope to see you there. Cheers!