

# Image generation

.Learn how to generate or manipulate images with DALL·E in the API

.Looking to generate images in ChatGPT? Head to [chatgpt.com](https://chatgpt.com)

## Introduction

:The Images API provides three methods for interacting with images

Creating images from scratch based on a text prompt (DALL·E 3 and DALL·E 2)

Creating edited versions of images by having the model replace some areas (of a pre-existing image, based on a new text prompt (DALL·E 2 only)  
(Creating variations of an existing image (DALL·E 2 only

This guide covers the basics of using these three API endpoints with useful code samples. To try DALL·E 3, head to [ChatGPT](https://chatgpt.com)

## Usage Generations

The [image generations](#) endpoint allows you to create an original image given a text prompt. When using DALL·E 3, images can have a size of 1024x1024, 1024x1792 or 1792x1024 pixels

By default, images are generated at standard quality, but when using DALL·E 3 you can set `quality: "hd"` for enhanced detail. Square, standard quality images are the fastest to generate

You can request 1 image at a time with DALL·E 3 (request more by making parallel requests) or up to 10 images at a time using DALL·E 2 with the [n parameter](#)

Generate an image

python

Select librarypythonnode.jscurl

```

from openai import OpenAI
client = OpenAI()

response = client.images.generate(
    model="dall-e-3",
    prompt="a white siamese cat",
    size="1024x1024",
    quality="standard",
    n=1
)

image_url = response.data[0].url

```

## What is new with DALL·E 3

[Explore what is new with DALL·E 3 in the OpenAI Cookbook](#)

## Prompting

With the release of DALL·E 3, the model now takes in the default prompt provided and automatically re-write it for safety reasons, and to add more detail (more detailed prompts generally result in higher quality images).

While it is not currently possible to disable this feature, you can use prompting to get outputs closer to your requested image by adding the following to your prompt: I NEED to test how the tool works with extremely simple prompts. DO NOT add any detail, just use it AS-IS

The updated prompt is visible in the `revised_prompt` field of the data response object.

## Example DALL·E 3 generations

Prompt

Generation

A photograph of a white Siamese cat.



Each image can be returned as either a URL or Base64 data, using the [.response\\_format](#) parameter. URLs will expire after an hour

### (Edits (DALL·E 2 only

Also known as "inpainting", the [image edits](#) endpoint allows you to edit or extend an image by uploading an image and mask indicating which areas should be replaced.

The transparent areas of the mask indicate where the image should be edited, and the prompt should describe the full new image, **not just the erased area**. This endpoint can enable experiences like DALL·E image editing in ChatGPT Plus

Edit an image

python

Select librarypythonnode.jscurl

```

from openai import OpenAI
client = OpenAI

))response = client.images.edit
    , "model="dall-e-2
, ("image=open("sunlit_lounge.png", "rb
    , ("mask=open("mask.png", "rb
, "prompt="A sunlit indoor lounge area with a pool containing a flamingo
    , n=1
    "size="1024x1024
    (

image_url = response.data[0].url

```

Image



Mask



Output



Prompt: a sunlit indoor lounge area with a pool containing a flamingo

The uploaded image and mask must both be square PNG images less than 4MB in size, and also must have the same dimensions as each other. The non-transparent areas of the mask are not used when generating the output, so they don't necessarily need to match the original image like the example above

## (Variations (DALL·E 2 only

.The [image variations](#) endpoint allows you to generate a variation of a given image

Generate an image variation

python

Select librarypythonnode.jscurl

```

from openai import OpenAI
client = OpenAI

response = client.images.create_variation
            , "model="dall-e-2
, ("image=open("corgi_and_cat_paw.png", "rb
            , n=1
            "size="1024x1024
            (

image_url = response.data[0].url

```

Image



Output



Similar to the edits endpoint, the input image must be a square PNG image less than .4MB in size

## Content moderation

Prompts and images are filtered based on our [content policy](#), returning an error .when a prompt or image is flagged

## Language-specific tips

Node.js

## Using in-memory image data

The Node.js examples in the guide above use the `fs` module to read image data from disk. In some cases, you may have your image data in memory instead. Here's an example API call that uses image data stored in a Node.js `Buffer` object

```
import OpenAI from "openai";

const openai = new OpenAI({
  apiKey: process.env.OPENAI_API_KEY,
});

// This is the Buffer object that contains your image data
const buffer = [your image data];

// Set a `name` that ends with .png so that the API knows it's a PNG image
buffer.name = "image.png";

const image = await openai.images.createVariation({
  model: "dall-e-2",
  image: buffer,
  n: 1,
  size: "1024x1024",
});

console.log(image.data);
```

```
;()main
```

## Working with TypeScript

If you're using TypeScript, you may encounter some quirks with image file arguments. Here's an example of working around the type mismatch by explicitly

:casting the argument

```
import fs from "fs";
import OpenAI from "openai";

const openai = new OpenAI({
  apiKey: process.env.OPENAI_API_KEY,
});

} ()async function main() {
  Cast the ReadStream to `any` to appease the TypeScript compiler //
  const image = await openai.images.createVariation(
    ,image: fs.createReadStream("image.png") as any
  );
  console.log(image.data);
}

;()main
```

:And here's a similar example for in-memory image data

```
    ;"import fs from "fs
; "import OpenAI from "openai

;()const openai = new OpenAI
```

```
    This is the Buffer object that contains your image data //
;const buffer: Buffer = [your image data
```

```
    Cast the buffer to `any` so that we can set the `name` property //
;const file: any = buffer
```

```
    Set a `name` that ends with .png so that the API knows it's a PNG image //
;file.name = "image.png
```



```
    } ()async function main
  })const image = await openai.images.createVariation
    ,file
    ,1
    "1024x1024"
    :({
;(console.log(image.data
    {

;(;)main
```

## Error handling

API requests can potentially return errors due to invalid inputs, rate limits, or other issues. These errors can be handled with a `try...catch` statement, and the error details can be found in either `error.response` or `error.message`

```

        ;"import fs from "fs
    ;"import OpenAI from "openai

    ;()const openai = new OpenAI

        } ()async function main
            } try
    })const image = await openai.images.createVariation
        ,("image: fs.createReadStream("image.png
            ,n: 1
            ,"size: "1024x1024
                ;({
                ;(console.log(image.data
                } (catch (error {
                } (if (error.response
    ;(console.log(error.response.status
    ;(console.log(error.response.data
                } else {
                ;(console.log(error.message
                    {
                    {
                    {
                ;()main

```

## Developer quickstart

The OpenAI API provides a simple interface to state-of-the-art AI [models](#) for natural language processing, image generation, semantic search, and speech recognition. Follow this guide to learn how to generate human-like responses to [natural language prompts](#), [create vector embeddings](#) for semantic search, and [generate images](#) from [textual descriptions](#).

## Create and export an API key

Create an [API key in the dashboard here](#), which you'll use to securely [access the API](#). Store the key in a safe location, like a [.zshrc file](#) or another text file on your computer. Once you've generated an API key, export it as an [environment variable](#) in your terminal

macOS / Linux

Windows

```
Export an environment variable in PowerShell
```

```
"setx OPENAI_API_KEY "your_api_key_here"
```

## Make your first API request

With your OpenAI API key exported as an environment variable, you're ready to make your first API request. You can either use the [REST API](#) directly with the HTTP client of your choice, or use one of our [official SDKs](#) as shown below

JavaScript

Python

curl

To use the OpenAI API in server-side JavaScript environments like Node.js, Deno, or Bun, you can use the official [OpenAI SDK for TypeScript and JavaScript](#). Get started by installing the SDK using [npm](#) or your preferred package manager

```
Install the OpenAI SDK with npm
```

```
npm install openai
```

With the OpenAI SDK installed, create a file called `example.mjs` and copy one of the following examples into it

Generate text

Generate an image

Create vector embeddings

Generate an image based on a textual prompt

```
import OpenAI from "openai";
const openai = new OpenAI({
  apiKey: process.env.OPENAI_API_KEY,
});

const image = await openai.images.generate({
  prompt: "A cute baby sea otter",
});

console.log(image.data[0].url);
```

Execute the code with `node example.mjs` (or the equivalent command for Deno or Bun). In a few moments, you should see the output of your API request