DEEP DIVE INTO APIS IN N8N

🎯 What this lesson is about:

In this lesson, you'll learn how APIs work, the parts of an API request, and how to use them inside n8n using the HTTP Request node. This is one of the most important lessons if you want to build powerful, flexible automations.

💡 What is an API?

- API = Application Programming Interface
- It allows apps to **talk to each other**
- Think of it like a **waiter** in a restaurant – it takes your order and brings back your food

📦 Why APIs matter:

- They let apps send and receive data without manual effort
- Without APIs, you would need to **manually update tools** like Google Sheets
- APIs = core of all real automation

📬 How API requests work:

1. **Client** sends request → like placing an order
2. **Server** processes it → like the kitchen preparing food
3. **Response** comes back → the meal is served

🔧 4 Key Parts of an API Request:

- **URL** – where the request goes
- **Method** – action (GET = get data, POST = send data, etc.)
- **Headers** – extra info (like API key)
- **Body** – data you send (used with POST/PUT)

📄 Common HTTP methods:

- GET – retrieve data
- POST – send new data
- DELETE – remove data
- PUT/PATCH – update data

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📥 API Response contains:

- **Status Code** – e.g. 200 = OK, 401 = Unauthorized, 404 = Not Found
- **Headers** – extra info like content type
- **Body** – the actual data returned

🔐 API Authentication:

- Most APIs need a key or token
- Use **Authorization** headers in n8n
- Without auth → 401 error

🛠️ Troubleshooting Tips in n8n:

- 401 = Add your API key
- 404 = Check the URL
- Wrong method = Use GET to retrieve, POST to send
- 400 = Invalid request body → usually wrong JSON format
- Always check the Execution Log to see what went wrong

✅ Example: Using HTTP Request Node in n8n:

- Enter API URL
- Choose method (GET or POST)
- Add headers (e.g. API Key)
- (Optional) Add body for POST requests
- Execute the node and process the response

📌 Recap:

- APIs allow automation by letting apps exchange data
- Learn how to send structured requests with the correct URL, method, headers, and body
- Use n8n's HTTP Request node for almost any integration
- Understand how status codes help debug issues
- Most problems are easy to fix with the execution log