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A reading path through our API docs: from the first request to a finished integration

WhatsApp & APIs

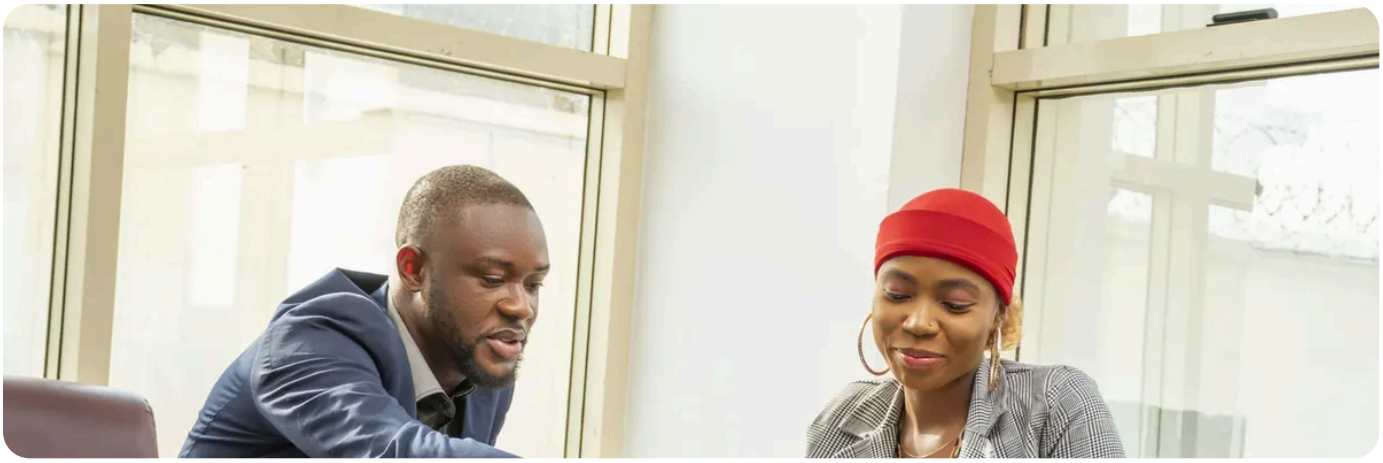
CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-AO-KB-2710	v2026.11.13	Angola · English

Interweb Angola
RLX Angola, Lda. · Group RLX Holdings
Tax ID (NIF) 500 260 5724 · Commercial registration no. 26464-25/250724

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A reading path through our API docs: from the first request to a finished integration

WhatsApp & APIs Created on **November 13, 2026** 2 min read



The short answer: you do not have to read the whole documentation. For an integration that works and does not break at the first problem, **eight stops** are enough, in this order. The first five are the same for any project; the rest depend on what you are automating.

The path, stop by stop

1. **Get started with the API**: check that the API responds with `GET /v1/ping`, which needs no key, and see the response format.

2. **Authentication and keys**: how the key goes in the `Authorization` header and what sets a `sandbox_` key apart from a `prod_` key.

3. **Permissions**: pick only the ones your program needs, area by area.

4. **API rules**: errors, limits, pagination, retries with `Idempotency-Key` and the Sandbox and Production modes. This is the page that separates a program that works from one that fails at the first hiccup.

5. **The page of the area** you will use, in the Areas group of the menu: it gives the permission you need and every operation with examples.

6. **Playground**: try the operations with a `sandbox_` key before you write any code.

7. **Key and status**: the operations your program can call to check the connection, see its limits and follow long-running operations.

8 **Production:** once everything works, create a `prod_` key with the minimum permissions. The "Going to production" section of the API rules says what changes.

Where to start, depending on the project

If you want to…	Read first
Show prices and plans on your website	Catalog
Send SMS from your system	SMS
Send emails from your application	Email Center
Manage DNS records	DNS
Open support tickets from another system	Support
Check and pay invoices with credit	Invoices and credit
Know whether a slow operation has finished	Key and status

Do not skip the API rules.
A program that repeats a purchase without `Idempotency-Key`, that does not wait after a `429`, or that reads only the first page of a list causes problems the reference alone will not explain.

From day one
, keep the key in an environment variable called `RLX_API_KEY`: it is the one every example in the documentation reads, so you can copy them without changing anything. See **the code examples**.

RECOMMENDED

The first step takes a minute and needs no key.

Get started with the API →

SEE ALSO

- How our API documentation is organised: Get started, Areas, API reference and Playground →
- The API Playground: trying a real request from your browser, step by step →

Code examples in our API docs: curl, PHP, Python and JavaScript, ready to copy and adapt

Reading one API operation in our docs: permission, parameters, examples, responses and errors

Sending SMS through the API: key, permissions, Sandbox and your first request

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