

# Howto access millions of product data easily in 10 minutes

**You are the owner of a Webshop, want to start Dropshipping, or compare your product cost against the global market without spending thousands of hours and dollars in research?**

In this tutorial, we'll explain you how you can easily access data from AliExpress for free and use them.



## STEP 1 – CONNECT TO API

Simply create an account on <https://rapidapi.com>.

Once you are registered, look for the Ali Express API, or go to <https://rapidapi.com/rene.meuselwitz/api/ali-express1> directly.

Select the free Basic plan and you can try out the API there right away. With the free plan you get enough calls to follow each step in this tutorial and get familiar with it. You can easily use it from any existing codebase using the code examples or the provided SDK.

## STEP 2 – LIST PRODUCTS

Now that you are connected, it is time to think about the products you are interested in.

### Product search

There are two common ways supported for this: If you want to check for specific products, e.g. from a certain brand, use the **/search** endpoint. The search term you are looking for goes into the parameter "query". Hit **"Test Endpoint"** and you get the first 20 search results. If you need more than that, you can increase the optional **from**-parameter. So set it to **"20"** for the next batch of results. If you want to have less than 20 results per page, you can limit it over the **limit**-parameter.

Each result element comes in a JSON-Structure, including the **productId**, which we will need for later calls and to get more detailed information.

Additionally, you get some product information like a **title**, **image** and **price** in the **productElements** - section of the result. It helps you saving requests if you just need basic product information.

## Products by category

If you are interested in all products of a certain category, first you want to check out all existing categories over the **/categories** endpoint. It does not expect any parameters and returns several hundred categories. Each category comes with a name, a link and an id. Store the ids of categories that you are interested in.

Over the endpoint **/productsByCategory/{category\_id}** you can fetch all products from this category. The **from** parameter will help you here again to go through all of them, simply increase it in steps of 20.

In the result of the call, we find the **data** element, which contains the **items** array with our items. In the **items** object, we again find besides some basic information the **productId** we are interested in.

## STEP 3 - GET PRODUCT DETAILS

Once you have your list of product\_ids, you probably want to get more information about them.

The endpoint **/product/{product\_id}** will do that for you.

The result is separated in several modules:

- The **descriptionModule** will give you the description to the item, or better the link to it as it is usually separately hosted.
- The **imageModule** contains all images for the product
- The **storeModule** contains information about the seller, e.g. how many followers he has and what his feedback score is
- The **priceModule** and **quantityModule** let you know exactly about pricing and quantities available
- The **titleModule** contains the product title, and so on

There is more advanced information in other modules as well, feel free to explore them if you are curious.

- **Tip:** you want to make your product accessible in a certain language or even multiple languages? Use the optional **language** parameter of this API call to get it translated automatically.

Some products are just available in certain countries. Use the optional **country** parameter to make sure you can get it where it matters for you.

All information that you could possibly want about the product will be listed in this object, so you can use it to publish the product on your website or do your research with it.

## STEP 4 – GET SHIPPING INFORMATION

As most products ship globally and there are often many different options, the ***/shipping/{productId}*** call will give you detailed information about which shipping options you have, what they cost, when the product will arrive and so on. Simply call it with the ***productId*** of your choice and the ISO code for the country you want to ship to. Don't know the ISO code of your country? Check here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_ISO\\_3166\\_country\\_codes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ISO_3166_country_codes)

Make sure you use the short 2-letter code.

If you have many products to ship, you can change the quantity in the optional parameter ***count***.

In the response object, you'll find an array of ***frightResult*** data. Each of them contains a company, which is the shipping company, the ***frightAmount*** which is the cost for shipping, ***time*** which indicates the shipping time in days, if you can track the package and so on.

That's it. Easy, right? With these simple steps, you now have access to a vast amount of products. Simply integrate them with your current systems or your webshop and start profiting.

