

# CHEAT SHEET | REFERENCE GUIDE

**Reference guide:** A user guide with technical facts or specifications about a software element in your app.

<u>Structure</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Test; as an app user</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Title is the element; answers the statement: <i>As a user, I want specific information on...</i></li> <li>▶ Headings capture different aspects of the element</li> <li>▶ Presents examples first</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Be showy; use examples and use cases to show how the element works</li> <li>▶ Be accurate; only detail current props, methods, etc. – no future features<sup>1</sup></li> <li>▶ Be direct; the content should be informative but brief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Is the content accurate?</li> <li>▶ Is the content complete? Is anything missing?</li> <li>▶ Is the content specific to the element? Move any instructions to a how-to guide; move any concepts to an explanation guide.</li> </ul>

**Reader's goal:** "I found the information I needed quickly; I'm back to working with the app."

**General structure and headings**

```
h1 <element>
  • h2 Examples
  • h2 Purpose
  • h2 Interactions
  • h2 Accessibility
  • h2 Internationalization
  • h2 Exceptions
  • h2 Props*
  • h2 See also
```

\* Alternatives: Parameters, Fields, Arguments

Header	Guidelines
(title) <code>&lt;element&gt;</code>	<p>After the title, include the syntax for the element in code font. For example, the endpoint URL, import statement, command.</p> <pre>h1 Get cat facts by category https://api.catfactzpartners.com/facts</pre> <p><i>syntax in code font</i></p>
Examples	<p>Provide examples that demo the usage of the software element; also include the expected output.</p> <pre>h3 Use case: Get funny cat facts</pre> <p><b>Request</b></p> <pre>curl -X GET "https://api.catfactzpartners.com/facts? category=funny"</pre> <p><b>Response</b></p> <pre>{   "facts": [     "Here's a funny cat fact: Cats can make over 100 different sounds!",     "Cat fact: A cat's nose print is unique, just like a human's fingerprint."   ] }</pre> <p><i>max 5 examples; if helpful, use code samples and subheadings</i></p>
Purpose	<p>Clearly state the purpose of the software element. Also describe what it's designed to accomplish or the problem it aims to solve with the app.</p>

	<p>The <code>Get cat facts</code> endpoint retrieves cat facts given specific criteria such as “funny” cat facts or cat facts from “eastern” states. The facts come from trusted partners who collaborate with CatFactz on the <a href="#">Partners API</a>.</p> <p>Use the returned facts to expand the CatFactz data source so users remain engaged and entertained.</p> <p><i>max 5 sentences or items in a bullet list</i></p>									
Interactions	<p>Explain how the reader should interact with the software element, or provide guidance on how to use it. Include any actions, methods, or functions the element provides.</p> <p><b>h3 Request</b></p> <pre>curl -X GET "https://api.catfactzpartners.com/facts? PARAM=VALUE"</pre> <p><b>h3 Response</b> The endpoint returns a JSON <code>Fact</code> object with an array of cat facts in the specified category.</p> <p><i>max 5 sentences or items in a bullet list; if helpful, use subheadings that are specific to the element (e.g., Request, Response, Methods, Functions)</i></p>									
Accessibility	<p>Address any accessibility considerations specific to the software element. For example, is the element accessible or does the reader need to include a certain prop?</p> <p>The CatFactz Partners API strives to provide an inclusive experience for all users.</p> <p>However, it's important to ensure that the implementation of the returned cat facts are still accessible. Consider providing alternative text or descriptions for any images or multimedia associated with the cat facts.</p> <p><i>max 5 sentences or items in a bullet list; include an image or code example if helpful</i></p>									
Internationalization	<p>Address any internationalization or localization considerations specific to the software element. For example, does the reader need to import another package to localize the element?</p> <p>Although the Partners API returns data in English, CatFactz can generate cat facts in a preferred language. See <a href="#">How to customize CatFactz</a> guide for details.</p> <p><i>max 5 sentences or items in a bullet list; include an image or code example if helpful</i></p>									
Exceptions	<p>Discuss exceptions, error handling, or unexpected scenarios that a reader may encounter. Include information on status codes, error messages, or troubleshooting steps for resolving issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>200 OK</b> The request was successful, and the cat fact was retrieved.</li> <li>• <b>400 Not Found</b> The requested <code>category</code> does not exist.</li> <li>• <b>500 Internal Server Error</b> An unexpected error occurred on the server while processing the request.</li> </ul> <p><i>max 5 sentences, include an image or code example if helpful; use a bullet list for status codes and descriptions</i></p>									
Props (or Parameters, Fields, Arguments)	<p>List the props associated with the software element. For each prop, explain the purpose, data type, and any default or optional values.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="625 2048 1399 2427"> <thead> <tr> <th>Parameter</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Values</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><code>category</code> (optional)</td> <td>Specifies the category of cat facts to retrieve.</td> <td><code>funny</code>, <code>cute</code>, <code>interesting</code>, <code>random</code> (default)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><code>region</code> (optional)</td> <td>Specifies a region in the United States where cat facts should be retrieved from..</td> <td><code>eastern</code>, <code>mid-atlantic</code>, <code>rockies</code>, <code>western</code>, <code>pacific</code>, <code>random</code> (default)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>use a table to list props and related data</i></p>	Parameter	Description	Values	<code>category</code> (optional)	Specifies the category of cat facts to retrieve.	<code>funny</code> , <code>cute</code> , <code>interesting</code> , <code>random</code> (default)	<code>region</code> (optional)	Specifies a region in the United States where cat facts should be retrieved from..	<code>eastern</code> , <code>mid-atlantic</code> , <code>rockies</code> , <code>western</code> , <code>pacific</code> , <code>random</code> (default)
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Learn more	<p>Provide links to other guides, also link to external sources if relevant. Each linked guide should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel like a natural progression</li> <li>• Help the reader gain more confidence</li> </ul>									

- Provide a brief sentence for context

If you're not familiar, learn how CatFactz users:

- Generate a cat fact in CatFactz
- Integrate CatFactz in other apps

*max 1 sentence, followed by a bullet list of items (no more than 3)*

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<sup>1</sup> Including soon-to-be implemented props in reference guides is tempting, but it is **not** recommended. Mainly because development can change at the last minute. It also adds to documentation maintenance, and prevents [timeless documentation](#).