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Real-time and Batch API

EPIC offers two ways to process your content: **Real-time** and **Batch**.
Both support the same operations for Quality Estimation (QE) and Automatic Post-Editing (APE), but they're designed for different use cases.

This guide will help you decide when it's best to use one or the other.

What Is the Batch API?

The Batch API lets you submit large volumes of text or documents in one go. Instead of expecting the results right away, your job is processed in the background, and you can retrieve the results once it's complete.

It's ideal for **high-volume, non-interactive** workflows where instant responses are not required.

Examples of processing time:

- 10,000 segments, QE+APE: 45 minutes
- 20,000 segments, QE+APE: 1 hour 40 minutes
- 60,000 segments, QE+APE: 8 hours 45 minutes

When to Choose the Batch API

Use the Batch API when you want to process **large amounts of content efficiently** and when your workflow doesn't require immediate feedback.

✅ Recommended for:

- **Bulk processing:** Submitting full documents or large datasets for QE or APE
- **Automated pipelines:** Running scheduled or overnight jobs
- **Offline integrations:** When users don't need to wait for the results
- **Optimized performance:** Handling thousands of segments in fewer API calls
- **Rate limit management:** Avoiding per-request limitations from synchronous calls

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Example use cases:

- Running daily QE reports on completed translation projects
- Performing automatic post-editing on batches of translations before delivery
- Evaluating translation quality across entire datasets for analytics or model training

When to Use the Real-Time API

Use the **Real-time API** when your use case requires **instant results** or **user-facing interactions**.

Example use cases:

- Showing instant quality scores in a CAT tool
- Providing live post-editing assistance
- Running quick tests on individual sentences during development

❌ Avoid the Batch API if:

- You need QE or APE feedback immediately in your UI
- You're processing single sentences or very short segments
- You're building an interactive or real-time translation workflow

Use Case Comparison

Scenario	Recommendation	Why
Running a QE report on a full document	**Batch API**	Bulk processing, no time pressure
Translators want to see instant quality feedback	**Real-Time API**	Needs real-time response
Automatically post-editing completed jobs overnight	**Batch API**	Scheduled, asynchronous
Testing the API with a few short sentences	**Real-Time API**	Simple and instant

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Tips for Using the Batch API

- **Split large jobs** into smaller chunks (for example, up to 50K segments per job) for faster processing.
- **Keep track of your job IDs** — they're needed to check progress and download results.
- **Check job status** using the API endpoint. You'll receive the email notification when your job is ready for download.
- **Download your results promptly** — batch results are available for download for 72 hours.
- **Submit jobs in parallel** if you're handling very large workloads.

Summary

Feature	Real-time API	Batch API
Processing	Immediate	Asynchronous
Best for	Real-time feedback	Bulk or scheduled processing
Typical size	Small inputs (1–10 segments)	Large documents or datasets
Response time	Instant	When processing is complete
Integration type	Interactive tools, live apps	Backend workflows, pipelines

Learn More

- EPIC Guide
- API documentation