



HOW TO CREATE A WORKING API KEY WITH CHATGPT ("ERROR 429")

October 6, 2025

We received feedback from users receiving "Error 429" after trying to use Red Ink with an API key that they generated within their ChatGPT account. This error message is not caused by Red Ink but by the OpenAI server refusing otherwise valid calls to its API. The reason is that the API key has not been configured correctly by the user within their OpenAI account, namely without a working payment method and a budget.

Follow these steps:

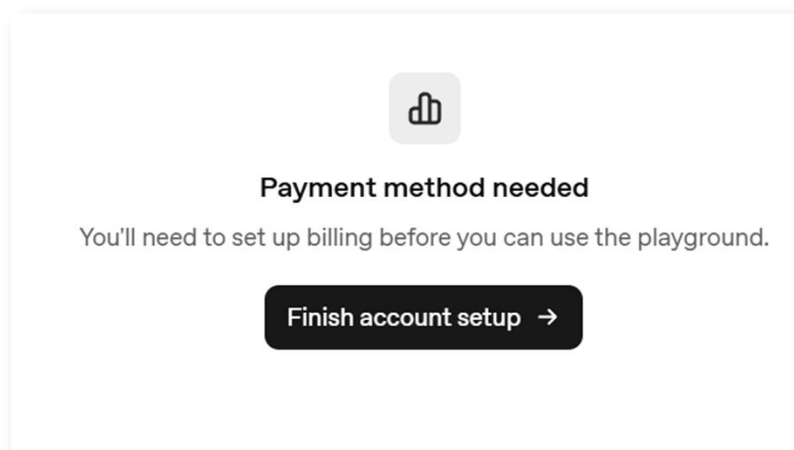
a) First, create a new API key:

The screenshot shows a 'Create new secret key' dialog box. At the top, it says 'Create new secret key'. Below that, 'Owned by' has two tabs: 'You' (selected) and 'Service account'. A warning message states: 'This API key is tied to your user and can make requests against the selected project. If you are removed from the organization or project, this key will be disabled.' There is a 'Name' field with the placeholder 'Optional' and the text 'API Test Schlüssel' entered. Below that is a 'Project' dropdown menu showing 'Default project'. Under 'Permissions', there are three tabs: 'All' (selected), 'Restricted', and 'Read only'. At the bottom right are 'Cancel' and 'Create secret key' buttons.

b) Save your API key. You will later need to insert it into Red Ink:

The screenshot shows a 'Save your key' dialog box. It contains a warning: 'Please save your secret key in a safe place since you won't be able to view it again. Keep it secure, as anyone with your API key can make requests on your behalf. If you do lose it, you'll need to generate a new one.' Below this is a link: 'Learn more about API key best practices'. The API key is displayed in a text box: 'sk-proj-SA7m2NE[REDACTED]'. To the right of the key is a 'Copy' button. Below the key, under 'Permissions', it says 'Read and write API resources'. At the bottom right is a 'Done' button.

- c) Now add a valid payment method (e.g., credit card). Even if you use ChatGPT for free or with an already paid subscription, you need to add a payment method and provide for a budget because with Red Ink you do not use the chatbot but the API service. This will cost separately based on your actual consumption (in our experience, however, the rates are very low for most models):



Add payment details



Add your credit card details below. This card will be saved to your account and can be removed at any time.

Card information

 Kartennummer

MM/JJ Prüfziffer

Name on card

Billing address

Country

Address line 1

Address line 2

City

Postal code

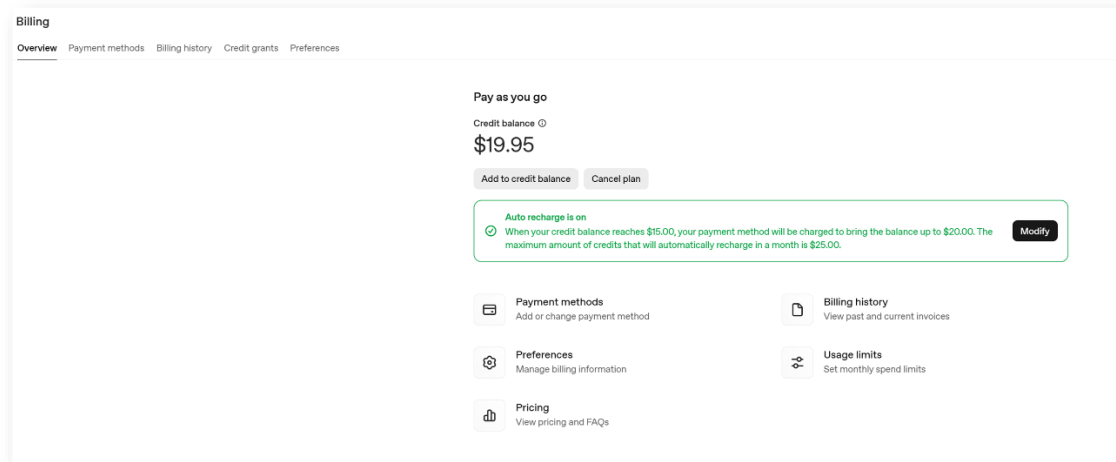
State, county, province, or region

☐ Purchasing as a business

Cancel

Continue

With the above, your API key should now work and no longer result in the "Error 429". You can monitor your consumption through your account:



Thanks to Thomas Merz for contributing to this!