The **keydown** event is fired when a key is pressed.

Unlike the `keypress` event, the `keydown` event is fired for all keys, regardless of whether they produce a character value.

Bubbles	Yes
Cancelable	Yes
Interface	`KeyboardEvent`
Event handler property	`onkeydown`

The `keydown` and `keyup` events provide a code indicating which key is pressed, while `keypress` indicates which *character* was entered. For example, a lowercase "a" will be reported as 65 by `keydown` and `keyup`, but as 97 by `keypress`. An uppercase "A" is reported as 65 by all events.

Since Firefox 65, the `keydown` and `keyup` events are now fired during IME composition, to improve cross-browser compatibility for CJKT users (bug 354358, also see keydown and keyup events are now fired during IME composition for more useful details). To ignore all `keydown` events that are part of composition, do something like this (229 is a special value set for a `keyCode` relating to an event that has been processed by an IME):

```
eventTarget.addEventListener("keydown", event => {
  if (event.isComposing || event.keyCode === 229) {
    return;
  }
  // do something
});
```

Examples

addEventListener keydown example

This example logs the `KeyboardEvent.code` value whenever you press down a key.

`<p>Focus the IFrame first (e.g. by clicking in it), then try pressing s`

```
<p>rocus the iframe first (e.g. by clicking in it), then try pressing s
<p id="log"></p>
```

```
document.addEventListener('keydown', logKey);

function logKey(e) {
  log.textContent += ` ${e.code}`;
}
```

onkeydown equivalent

```
document.onkeydown = logKey;
```