

What is a Callback?

Simply put: A callback is a function that is to be executed **after** another function has finished executing — hence the name ‘call back’.

More complexly put: In JavaScript, functions are objects. Because of this, functions can take functions as arguments, and can be returned by other functions. Functions that do this are called **higher-order functions**. Any function that is passed as an argument is called a **callback function**.

Why do we need Callbacks?

For one very important reason — JavaScript is an event driven language. This means that instead of waiting for a response before moving on, JavaScript will keep executing while listening for other events