

## What is the difference between an Event Listener and Event Handler

### Take a step back

You can think of Events **as a** generalization of all the things the computer can react to. By react I just mean, to do something **AFTER** the event has happened.

For example, when you press a key, a “keydown” event is fired. You can react to this event if you want to. But there are other events. A click, a window resize, a scroll are all actions that the computer can react to.

### Listener

The DOM API gives us a way to **listen** to events happening in the DOM. For **example, you can start and stop listening** to events by attaching an event listener to certain elements.

### Handler

If you want to react to a certain event and do something when a specific action takes place, we need to write a JavaScript function that deals with **the event. This function is called the handler of the event.**

### Summary

We can look really smart by saying that, technically, we are using **event handlers to listen to** events. But I like to think of the below scenario as doing a pretty good job as showing the difference between events, listeners and handlers.

Take this scenario:

1. You hover over a button, and **click your mouse = Event.**
2. The button element that is listening/waiting for you to click your mouse **= Event Listener .**
3. **What you do after the mouse has been clicked = Event Handler .**

Hope this is all starting to make sense.

See you soon.

