**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.