C# is an object-oriented programming language developed by Microsoft for the .NET platform. Although .NET programs can be written in many different languages (including C++, Visual Basic, Java, Fortran, Cobol and Eiffel), Microsoft developed C# specifically to exploit the full potential of .NET.

The .NET Framework is both library and runtime for executing applications.

.NET functions as run-time environment involve providing automatic garbage collection, security, versioning and, above all, interoperability between programs written in different languages.

The .NET Framework is also an object-oriented class library, providing a rich set of functionality for graphical user interfaces (Windows forms), web interfaces (ASP.NET), database connectivity (ADO.NET), collections, threads, reflection and much more. In many cases it replaces the current Windows API.

Usage of C# implies knowledge of .NET as there is a direct correlation between the C# object model and the .NET object model.