Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years. Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. New languages are generally designed around the syntax of a prior language with new functionality added, (for example C++ adds object-orientation to C, and Java adds memory management and bytecode to C++, but as a result, loses efficiency and the ability for low-level manipulation). Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Debugging is often done with IDEs. Standalone debuggers like GDB are also used, and these often provide less of a visual environment, usually using a command line. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.

Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine. When debugging the problem in a GUI, the programmer can try to skip some user interaction from the original problem description and check if remaining actions are sufficient for bugs to appear. There are many approaches to the Software development process. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).