Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. Auxiliary tasks accompanying and related to programming include analyzing requirements, testing, debugging (investigating and fixing problems), implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as programs' machine code. 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). By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. 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. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. There are many approaches to the Software development process. Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly. Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL). It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. However, readability is more than just programming style. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software. Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.