Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks..  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
The following properties are among the most important:  
  
 In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code.  
 These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics.  
 Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
 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.  
  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
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.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.