High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware..  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
 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.  
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.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 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.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.