They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones..  
 Allen Downey, in his book How To Think Like A Computer Scientist, writes:  
 Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries.  
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.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm.  
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.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
 The academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems.  
 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.  
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.  
Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.