Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code..  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
Proficient programming usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, details of programming languages and generic code libraries, specialized algorithms, and formal logic.  
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).  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
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.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
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.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.