Programming languages are essential for software development..  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
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.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
 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.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.