They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones..  
 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.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams.  
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.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers.  
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.  
 New languages are generally designed around the syntax of a prior language with new functionality added, (for example C++ adds object-orientation to C, and Java adds memory management and bytecode to C++, but as a result, loses efficiency and the ability for low-level manipulation).  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.