Their jobs usually involve:  
 Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language..  
Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 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.  
However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages.  
 These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics.