Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation..  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
 The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
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.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
 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.  
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.  
 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.  
 Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.