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..  
Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm.  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
 The academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
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.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
 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).  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.