The following properties are among the most important:  
  
 In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code..  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
 Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users.  
 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.  
Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL).  
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.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
  
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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory.