Programming languages are essential for software development..  
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.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
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.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
 Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code.  
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.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
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.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
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.