Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly..  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
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.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
 Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
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.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
 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.