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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
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.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
 Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
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).  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
 Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display.  
 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.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages.  
Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language.