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..  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
  
 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.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
 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.  
 Computer programmers are those who write computer software.  
 Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA).  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.