Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation..  
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.  
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.  
Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
 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.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
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.  
  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
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).