A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it..  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
 Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
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.  
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.  
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.  
  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit.  
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).  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.