Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code..  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
 Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape.  
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.  
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.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
 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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 Debugging is often done with IDEs. Standalone debuggers like GDB are also used, and these often provide less of a visual environment, usually using a command line.  
 Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA).  
 Allen Downey, in his book How To Think Like A Computer Scientist, writes:  
 Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries.  
The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.