They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones..  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
 These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics.  
In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams.  
 Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.  
In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages.  
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).  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
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.