Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape..  
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.  
It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages.  
 Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
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.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
 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.  
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).  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
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.  
There are many approaches to the Software development process.  
 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.