Following a consistent programming style often helps readability..  
In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
For this purpose, algorithms are classified into orders using so-called Big O notation, which expresses resource use, such as execution time or memory consumption, in terms of the size of an input.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices.  
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.  
 After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug.  
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.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.