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).  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Compiling takes the source code from a low-level programming language and converts it into machine code.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
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.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.