They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
There are many approaches to the Software development process.  
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.  
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.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
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.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
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.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
 The academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems.