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.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
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.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
Programming involves tasks such as analysis, generating algorithms, profiling algorithms' accuracy and resource consumption, and the implementation of algorithms (usually in a particular programming language, commonly referred to as coding).  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.