This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
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A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
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.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
Also, those involved with software development may at times engage in reverse engineering, which is the practice of seeking to understand an existing program so as to re-implement its function in some way.  
Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers.  
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The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
 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.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).