Programming languages are essential for software development.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
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.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
Compiling takes the source code from a low-level programming language and converts it into machine code.  
FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research.