Relatedly, software engineering combines engineering techniques and principles with software development.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
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.  
Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute.  
The purpose of programming is to find a sequence of instructions that will automate the performance of a task (which can be as complex as an operating system) on a computer, often for solving a given problem.  
The source code of a program is written in one or more languages that are intelligible to programmers, rather than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit.  
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.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
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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.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
 Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code.