It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
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.  
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.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
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).  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
Transpiling on the other hand, takes the source-code from a high-level programming language and converts it into bytecode.  
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.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
 Tasks accompanying and related to programming include testing, debugging, source code maintenance, implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as the machine code of computer programs.