Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
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.  
Proficient programming thus usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, specialized algorithms, and formal logic.  
Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages.  
However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory.  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
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.  
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.  
Expert programmers are familiar with a variety of well-established algorithms and their respective complexities and use this knowledge to choose algorithms that are best suited to the circumstances.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
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.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.