**Compiler**

computer [software](https://www.britannica.com/technology/software) that translates (compiles) source [code](https://www.britannica.com/technology/machine-language) written in a [high-level language](https://www.britannica.com/technology/computer-programming-language)  into a set of [machine-language](https://www.britannica.com/technology/machine-language) instructions that can be understood by a [digital computer](https://www.britannica.com/technology/digital-computer)’s [CPU](https://www.britannica.com/technology/central-processing-unit). Compilers are very large programs, with error-checking and other abilities. Some compilers translate high-level language into an intermediate [assembly language](https://www.britannica.com/technology/assembly-language), which is then translated (assembled) into machine code by an assembly program or assembler.

Interpreter

**An interpreter is a**[**program**](https://www.webopedia.com/definitions/program/)**that executes instructions written in a**[**high-level language**](https://www.webopedia.com/definitions/high-level-language/)**. Interpreters enable other programs to run on a**[**computer**](https://www.webopedia.com/definitions/computer/)**or**[**server**](https://www.webopedia.com/definitions/server/)**. They process program code at run time, checking the code for errors line by line.**

**There are two ways to**[**run**](https://www.webopedia.com/definitions/run/)**programs written in a high-level language. The most common is to**[**compile**](https://www.webopedia.com/definitions/compile/)**the program; the other method is to pass the program through an interpreter.**