

Name:

Date:

# Computer, Programs, Languages

What is a *computer*?

Describe in a few words how you would define a "computer":

Are *these persons* "computers"?

## Hidden Figures

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wfrDhgUMGI>



**Katherine Johnson**  
1918-2020



**Mary Jackson**  
1921-2005



**Dorothy Vaughan**  
1910-2008

Are *you* a computer?

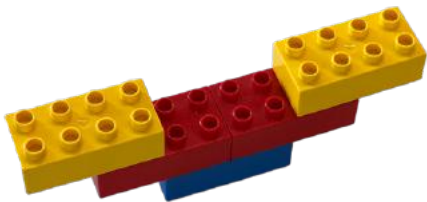
Perform the following addition:

987654321  
+1234567890  
\_\_\_\_\_

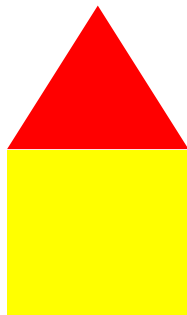
Describe what you did:

## What does it mean to *program*?

Define in a few words what you think “programming” means:




Describe the shown figure:



Describe the shown figure:

Natural language vs. *programming language*

	Natural language	Programming language
Definition	<p><i>Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita mi ritrovai per una selva oscura ché la diritta via era smarrita.</i></p>  <p>Photo by Natalia Y. on Unsplash</p>	<p><b>Syntax</b></p> $t ::= x$ $t ::= \lambda x. t$ $t ::= t \ t$ <p><b>terms:</b> variable abstraction application</p> $v ::= \lambda x. t$ <p><b>values:</b> abstraction value</p> <p><b>Evaluation</b></p> $\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t'_1}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t'_1 \ t_2} \quad (E\text{-APP1})$ $\frac{t_2 \rightarrow t'_2}{v_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow v_1 \ t'_2} \quad (E\text{-APP2})$ $(\lambda x. t_{12}) \ v_2 \rightarrow [x \mapsto v_2] t_{12} \quad (E\text{-APPABS})$
Used for...		
Examples... (that I know at least a little)		
Example texts...	<p>Parlo italiano. ----- Deutsch. ----- français. I speak English.</p>	<pre>print("Hello Python") System.out.println("Hello Java"); console.log('Hello JavaScript'); putStrLn "Hello Haskell"</pre>

What is the difference between natural languages and *programming languages*?

A programming language needs to be unambiguous,  
it must not lead to misunderstandings.  
(It must be clear, unmistakable, and explicit.)

(KAPPLA activity)

## Fundamental concepts of programming languages

All programming languages are defined by a:

SYNTAX	SEMANTICS
<b>Syntax</b> $t ::=$ $x$ $\lambda x. t$ $t t$  $v ::=$ $\lambda x. t$	<b>Evaluation</b> $\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t'_1}{t_1 t_2 \rightarrow t'_1 t_2} \quad (E-APP1)$ $\frac{t_2 \rightarrow t'_2}{v_1 t_2 \rightarrow v_1 t'_2} \quad (E-APP2)$ $(\lambda x. t_{12}) v_2 \rightarrow [x \mapsto v_2] t_{12} \quad (E-APPABS)$

Programming languages are defined with mathematical precision. There is no room for interpretation. The **meaning of everything** is 100% clear.

Thanks to this **uniqueness**, the computer is able to automatically detect if the program violates any language rules. **It can help the programmer** to fix the problem by providing an error message.

Program with error	Kind of error	Correct program
rectangle(100, 200, yellow)	<b>Syntax Error</b>	rectangle(100, 200, yellow)
rectangle("Ciao", 200, red)	<b>Semantic Error</b>	rectangle(100, 200, red)

While the computer can detect when a program **violates the rules of the language**, **it** can't detect whether the program will do what the programmer actually wanted to do. **It can't see in the programmer's head!**

Program with error	Kind of error	Correct program
rectangle(200, 200, yellow)	<b>Logic Error</b>	rectangle(100, 200, yellow)


**Complete** the following summary table:

Your computer <b>can</b> detect:	The computer <b>cannot</b> detect:

## The Python programming language

<p>This is a program written in Python:</p> <pre>rectangle(200, 100, black)</pre>	<p>Act like a computer and execute the program (draw here what it produces):</p>
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Inventor of Python:

	<p><b>Guido Van Rossum:</b> A Dutch computer scientist</p> <p>Python was born by chance in the early 90s, during a moment of leisure and pastime.</p> <p>By 2023 about half (49%) of software developers world-wide used Python!</p> <p>Photo by <a href="#">Kushal Das</a> on <a href="#">Wikimedia Commons</a>. CC BY-SA 4.0</p>
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The name “Python” was inspired by (select one):



Photo by [David Clode](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Monty Python's  
Flying Circus



Logo of Python:



Official definition of Python:



<https://www.python.org/>