

History of C Language

History of C language is interesting to know. Here we are going to discuss a brief history of the c language.

C programming language was developed in 1972 by Dennis Ritchie at bell laboratories of AT&T (American Telephone & Telegraph), located in the U.S.A.

Dennis Ritchie is known as the **founder of the c language**.

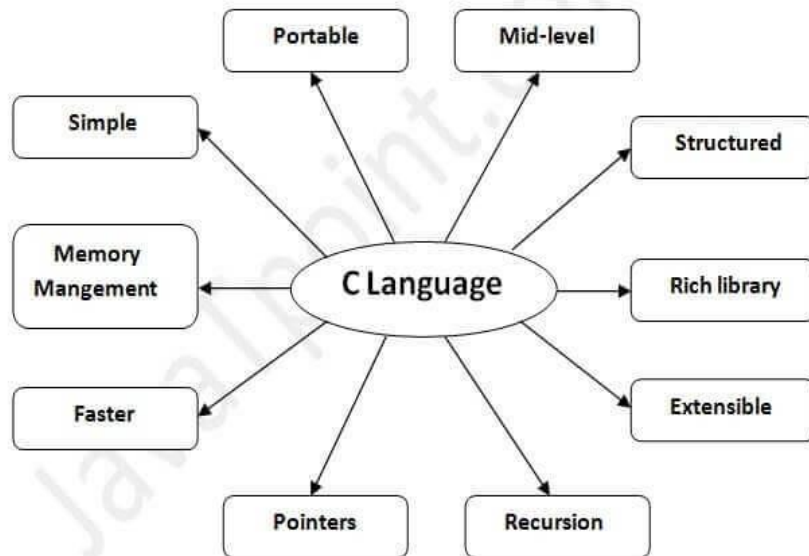
It was developed to overcome the problems of previous languages such as B, BCPL, etc.

Initially, C language was developed to be used in **UNIX operating system**. It inherits many features of previous languages such as B and BCPL.

Let's see the programming languages that were developed before C language.

Language	Year	Developed By
Algol	1960	International Group
BCPL	1967	Martin Richard
B	1970	Ken Thompson
Traditional C	1972	Dennis Ritchie
K & R C	1978	Kernighan & Dennis Ritchie
ANSI C	1989	ANSI Committee
ANSI/ISO C	1990	ISO Committee
C99	1999	Standardization Committee

Features of C Language



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C is the widely used language. It provides many **features** that are given below.

1. Simple
 2. Machine Independent or Portable
 3. Mid-level programming language
 4. structured programming language
 5. Rich Library
 6. Memory Management
 7. Fast Speed
 8. Pointers
 9. Recursion
 10. Extensible
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1) Simple

C is a simple language in the sense that it provides a **structured approach** (to break the problem into parts), **the rich set of library functions, data types**, etc.

2) Machine Independent or Portable

Unlike assembly language, c programs **can be executed on different machines** with some machine specific changes. Therefore, C is a machine independent language.

3) Mid-level programming language

Although, C is **intended to do low-level programming**. It is used to develop system applications such as kernel, driver, etc. It **also supports the features of a high-level language**. That is why it is known as mid-level language.

4) Structured programming language

C is a structured programming language in the sense that **we can break the program into parts using functions**. So, it is easy to understand and modify. Functions also provide code reusability.

5) Rich Library

C **provides a lot of inbuilt functions** that make the development fast.

6) Memory Management

It supports the feature of **dynamic memory allocation**. In C language, we can free the allocated memory at any time by calling the **free()** function.

7) Speed

The compilation and execution time of C language is fast since there are lesser inbuilt functions and hence the lesser overhead.

8) Pointer

C provides the feature of pointers. We can directly interact with the memory by using the pointers. We **can use pointers for memory, structures, functions, array**, etc.

9) Recursion

In C, we **can call the function within the function**. It provides code reusability for every function. Recursion enables us to use the approach of backtracking.

10) Extensible

C language is extensible because it **can easily adopt new features**.