
Subject: Re: Single Quotes, Double Quotes
Posted by [korpela](#) on Thu, 14 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <MPG.fc4d67beb3ea90d989792@news.frii.com>,
David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:
> I don't know the "official" answer, but I suspect it has
> to do with the way octal and hexadecimal numbers are
> specified in IDL.

I thought this at first, but proved myself wrong.

> For example, to create a hexadecimal number:
> IDL> a = "f4"x

> Thus, if the "thing" you are assigning to a variable
> is a number (but you want it as a string), you must use
> single quotes or it will be mistaken for a hexadecimal
> or octal number.

The proof that this is wrong is that attempting to create a
hexidecimal number with "number"x fails if the string starts
with a number.

```
IDL> a="1f"x
```

```
a="1f"x  
  ^
```

% Syntax error.

Even hex and octal numbers must be created with 'number'x
to ensure success.

An interesting aside is that the following succeeds.
(IDL doesn't check that the string converted can actually
be converted sucessfully).

```
IDL> a="mmmm"x  
IDL> print,a  
-278606233
```

Eric

--

Eric Korpela | An object at rest can never be
korpela@ssl.berkeley.edu | stopped.
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