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Subject: Re: help: Type & size checking  
Posted by [Phil Aldis](#) on Thu, 25 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT  
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From the questions you have been asking (and I think you may even have said it yourself), you are just beginning to learn how to program in IDL.

I don't about you but when I started I found that the IDL help files were all very well if you wanted to find out the particular syntax for a function, but they didn't really tell you how to program good code in IDL. They are great reference tools (I don't know how I would be able to get by without them now) but when you start you want a tutorial from a very experienced IDL programmer which guides you through wreiting tight IDL code.

Well as luck would have it, I soon went on an RSI course with David Fanning and his book as given out as part of the course. It is an excellent book which willl take you through all sorts of aspects of IDL. It is clear and simple to understand and gave me a great founding in this language.

You can find out more details by visiting David's website [www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com). Or for a more impartial view you can visit Amazon books and order through there, I believe there are some reviews from people who've bought it.

I woudl thouroughly recommend that you get it as it would help teach you some great IDL technique.

Cheers,  
Phil

P.S. I'm not on any form of commission or anything, this is a genuine recommendation of a great book.

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