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Subject: Re: Some special behaviour of ROUTINE\_NAMES  
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Fri, 25 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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Craig Markwardt wrote:

```
> I don't know what possibilities you are talking about :-), but you can
> make funny and illegal structures by yourself too. Amuse your
> friends.
>
> IDL Version 5.2.1 (linux x86). (c) 1999, Research Systems, Inc.
> IDL> foo = create_struct('1',1, '2',2)
> IDL> help, /struct, foo
> ** Structure <817fda4>, 2 tags, length=4, refs=1:
>  1      INT      1
>  2      INT      2
> IDL> print, foo.(0), foo.(1)
>    1      2
>
> But, as you can see, the elements can be accessed by using the
> array-like indexing of structure tags.
```

Don't make a habit of it, because it's illegal in IDL 5.3:

```
IDL Version 5.3 (Win32 x86). (c) 1999, Research Systems, Inc.
IDL> foo = create_struct('1',1, '2',2)
% CREATE_STRUCT: Illegal tag name: 1.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

The documentation actually states that structure tag names must follow the same rules as variable names. It just wasn't enforced in `create_struct()` prior to IDL 5.3.

Cheers,  
Liam.  
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

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