
Subject: Re: Novice question.

Posted by [Peter Clinch](#) on Thu, 26 Oct 2000 12:22:12 GMT

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Randall Skelton wrote:

> I can set x=1.0 and y=2.0 at the command prompt but how do I then clear or
> reset the x and y variables after this? Better still, how do I do this to
> all the variables which I've defined in a program/function?

RTFM references you want are probably "delvar", ".reset_session" ;-)

Though note you can assign new values to variables without clearing them first, as in most languages. Since IDL isn't particularly rigid with types (i.e., easier to move between them, and easier to get weird errors as a result of doing it by mistake!), you can set different types on the fly, so...

```
IDL> x=1.0
IDL> help,x
X          FLOAT    =    1.00000
```

```
IDL> x=2
IDL> help,x
X          INT      =      2
```

```
IDL> delvar,x
IDL> help,x
X          UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

```
IDL> x='hello'
IDL> y=x
IDL> help,x,y
X          STRING   = 'hello'
Y          STRING   = 'hello'
```

```
IDL> .reset_session
IDL> help,x,y
X          UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
Y          UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

HTH, Pete.

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