

---

Subject: keyword question

Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Wed, 23 May 2001 16:07:47 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Greetings all,

I am trying to have an array \*optionally\* returned using a keyword and I don't know the dimension of the array prior to the call. Why is it that the passed keyword needs to be defined in IDL prior to being used as a keyword?

What am I doing wrong here?

Cheers,  
Randall

Here is an example:

---

```
function test, a, b=b
  a = 1.0
  if (keyword_set(b)) then b = fltarr(10)
  return, 1
end
--
```

\*\*\*This works as I'd expect:

```
IDL> print, test(a) && help, a
```

1

```
A          FLOAT    =    1.00000
```

\*\*\*This does not work as I expect:

```
IDL> print, test(a,b=duh) && help, a, duh
```

1

```
A          FLOAT    =    1.00000
DUH        UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

\*\*\*This works which makes me mad:

```
IDL> duh = 1
```

```
IDL> print, test(a,b=duh) && help, a, duh
```

1

```
A          FLOAT    =    1.00000
DUH        FLOAT    =    Array(20)
```

---