
Subject: Re: Am I stupid?

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Tue, 10 Jul 2001 13:53:30 GMT

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Colin Rosenthal wrote:

```
>  
> pro stupid,a=a,a1=a1  
>  
> print,'a=',a  
> print,'a1=',a1  
>  
> end  
>  
> IDL> stupid,a=1,a1=2  
> % Ambiguous keyword abbreviation: A.  
>  
> so is there a sensible way around this? What I'm actually trying to  
> do is to have a keyword AXISCOLOR in a routine that also accepts  
> the AX keyword. I know I could call it something different but am I  
> just being a whiny luser if I think the above code should work  
> as is?
```

Colin,

According to the IDL documentation:

"Keywords can be abbreviated to their shortest unique length"

In your case, the keyword AX precludes the use of another keyword which begins with the letters "AX". A good rule of thumb is to make the first 3 characters of each keyword unique.

Cheers,

Liam.

Practical IDL Programming

<http://www.gumley.com/>
