
Subject: Re: Am I stupid?

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Wed, 11 Jul 2001 18:08:25 GMT

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James Kuyper wrote:

>

> Paul van Delst wrote:

> ...

>>> On second reading, the documentation ("IDL> ? abbreviating keywords") exactly
>>> describes Craig's suggestion. The full keyword TIME cannot be abbreviated to a
>>> shorter unique length, whereas TIMESTEP can be abbreviated to the shortest
>>> unique length TIMES. Nowhere in the documentation can I find the behaviour that
>>> the keyword TIME may not be used, simply because... because... well, for no reason
>>> at all actually.

>>

>> Umm, I haven't had my requisite 4 cups of coffee yet this morning so I may be fading in
>> and out here, but if you specify a keyword TIME=something, how is the interpreter supposed
>> to know if you are specifying TIME, TIMEUNIT abbreviated to "TIME", or TIMESTEP
>> abbreviated to "TIME"? My initial fix would be to rename TIME to TIMEVALUE and stick an
>> easy to see comment somewhere in the header warning users about abbreviating these
>> keywords too much.

>

> It would know that TIME cannot be an abbreviated keyword, because it's
> too short to be unique. Therefore, it must be the full keyword.

If I understand you (and Jaco) correctly, what you're saying is:

The abbreviated keyword is too short to be unique, therefore it is.

For some reason this discussion bring Godel's Incompleteness Theorem to mind. I think this is a case where statements can be neither proved nor disproved.... :o)

paulv

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Paul van Delst A little learning is a dangerous thing;
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
Fax:(301)763-8545 And drinking largely sobers us again.
 Alexander Pope.