
Subject: Re: Parameters for Dummies

Posted by [thompson](#) on Fri, 31 May 2002 18:11:11 GMT

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David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:

> Sean Raffuse (sean@me.wustl.edu) writes:

>

>> is there any time when I should really be using a positional parameter

>> instead of a keyword parameter? The more I do, the less I see why a

>> positional parameter would ever be better. Yet, I'm sure they're there for

>> a reason. Please enlighten me, oh most wise discussion group.

> Here is a loose rule of thumb: Positional parameters are

> for **required** parameters. Keyword parameters are for

> everything else.

I second that.

I've encountered IDL software where the developer decided to make EVERY parameter a keyword parameter, even the required ones that you have to enter in every time. I found all that typing quite a pain. (On the other hand, I also remember the bad old days, before IDL keywords were invented, and all parameters were positional, even if you had twenty of them!)

William Thompson
