
Subject: Re: Begin statement

Posted by [gurman](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 1995 18:45:27 GMT

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In article <3efcu3\$6br@post.gsfc.nasa.gov>, thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov (William Thompson) wrote:

> hartl@clouzot.imo.physik.uni-muenchen.de (Ingmar Hartl) writes:

>

>> In article <hahn.74.00145964@hrz.th-darmstadt.de> hahn@hrz.th-darmstadt.de (Norbert Hahn) writes:

>>> and it looks as if begin is immediately followed by end:

>>> IDL> repeat begin

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>>> & END

>>> ^

>>> % Syntax error.

>

>> Same happened to me.

>

>> It worked, after I wrote a procedure with this statements.

>

>> I think, it is only allowed to use BEGIN and END statements

>> in procedures and functions. I found nothing to this point

>> in the User's Guide...

>

>> Ingmar Hartl.

>

> Actually, on can use BEGIN and END statements from the command line, but one > has to fit in the entire command onto a single command line, e.g.

>

> IDL> FOR I=1,10 DO BEGIN & PRINT,I & HELP,I & ENDFOR

In fact, on the command line, one can even omit the END[FOR] --- as the original poster had it:

```
IDL> for i = 0, 9 do begin & print,i & help,i
```

(I never knew it worked until David Stern did it while showing me something or other.)

Joe Gurman

>

> (It actually doesn't matter if one uses END or ENDFOR. Always remembering to > use ENDFOR, ENDF, ENDWHILE, etc. leads to more readable code and makes it > easier for IDL to point out where any errors might occur.)

>

> If one only wants a single statement within a FOR loop, then one can omit the
> BEGIN and ENDFOR statements, e.g.

```
>  
> IDL> FOR I=1,10 DO PRINT,I
```

> If one can't fit the entire loop onto a single line, then one needs to write a
> procedure, either by editing a file or by using .RUN, e.g.

```
>  
> IDL> .RUN  
> - FOR I=1,10 DO BEGIN  
> - PRINT, I  
> - HELP, I  
> - ENDFOR  
> - END
```

> William Thompson

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