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Subject: basic IDL questions: please help!  
Posted by [gamblin](#) on Mon, 21 Oct 2002 22:57:35 GMT  
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Hi, Thanks for reading my question.

I start a program with: `pro program_name`  
then I've got lots of stuff inbetween that and the "end" at the end of the program. After the program quits and returns me to the command prompt of IDL, it seems like it has lost all the variables from it's memory and I can't work with the variables anymore. I can fix this problem with a "stop" before the "end", but Dave's `mpi_plot` program won't seem to work correctly unless it sees an "end" and not a "stop".

I know this is probably pretty rudimentary, but it's always had me confused and I'm hoping someone could help me out here by explaining what's going on.

Also, if I call a program while inside another program how do I get IDL to automatically recompile the inner program (or at least check to make sure it doesn't need to be recompiled) when IDL compiles the "outer" program?

Thanks in advance for any tips and clarifications!

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