
Subject: Re: Begin statement

Posted by [thompson](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 1995 00:02:11 GMT

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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
>> All rights reserved. Unauthorized reproduction prohibited.
>> & 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
```

(It actually doesn't matter if one uses END or ENDFOR. Always remembering to use ENDFOR, ENDFOR, ENDFOR, 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
