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Subject: Re: RFC 1: Common functions for beginners  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 15 May 2003 10:32:26 GMT  
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Ed Wright wrote:

> To: IDL guri  
> From: Ed Wright  
>  
> I have a request for comments (just like the IETF).  
>  
> I learned the basics of IDL use and programming over a long time interval  
> while writing the magnum opus of dlms. Rather than have new users repeat my  
> learning process, I'd like your suggestions for the twenty or so most common  
> IDL functions a new user should understand.  
>  
> I mean most basic-most used. Open file, read numbers, plot numbers, write  
> text, close file.  
>  
> As always,  
> Ed Wright  
>

in addition to the other repliers  
print,expand\_path(!path) & help,!version,/str

index operations e.g.

```
x=findgen(10)*!pi  
print,x[0:9:2]  
x[*]=5.
```

the miracle of  
n\_elements() (obsolete, new call is SIZE(x,/n\_elements)),  
n\_params()  
arg\_present()  
keyword\_set()  
and how to use them

regards

Reimar

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Reimar Bauer

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)  
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