
Subject: Re: Function compiles, but get message as if it's not
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 22 Sep 2004 03:12:05 GMT
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Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

```
> If you do ".compile taco", IDL will search for a file "taco.pro"
> in your path and compile it, recognizing all procedures and functions
> in the file.
>
> If you do "taco, parameters, /keywords", IDL will search for a file
> "taco.pro" in your path and compile everything until it finds a
> PROCEDURE taco. Anything following that won't be compiled. A FUNCTION
> taco won't be recognized.
>
> If you do "result = taco(...)", IDL will search for a file
> "taco.pro" in your path and compile everything until it finds
> a FUNCTION taco. Anything following that won't be compiled. A
> PROCEDURE taco won't be recognized.
>
```

I believe the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs are not quite correct. They should be rewritten as:

If you do "taco, parameters, /keywords" OR "result = taco(...)", IDL will search for a file "taco.pro" in your path and compile everything until it finds a routine (procedure OR function) called taco. Anything following that won't be compiled.

To illustrate this, created a file on your path called taco.pro, and add the following lines

```
function taco
end
```

```
pro taco
end
```

Now invoke the procedure "taco". IDL prints

```
IDL> taco
% Compiled module: TACO.
% Attempt to call undefined procedure/function: 'TACO'.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

It has compiled the function and then quit, even though it was looking for a procedure.

- > So, make sure the function / procedure which has the same name as the
- > file is the last one in the file. This will normally be your "main"
- > function / procedure. If other functions / procedures are called
- > (needed) exclusively by that "main" one, put them into the same file,
- > but above. If any function / procedure might be needed more often, put
- > them into their own file.

All good advice, irrespective of the details.

--

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