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Subject: Re: Forcing READ\_ASCII output to be a set of strings...  
Posted by [Jonathan Greenberg](#) on Mon, 14 Mar 2005 18:42:04 GMT  
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I kinda answered my own question -- I took the read\_ascii.pro that IDL distributes and simply changed the default behavior on this line:

```
fieldTypesUse = REPLICATE(4L, fieldCountUse)
```

To

```
fieldTypesUse = REPLICATE(7L, fieldCountUse)
```

This appears to work fine... I'm kicking IDL a request to modify this so it'll default to a user-defined format...

--j

On 3/14/05 9:56 AM, in article BE5B1035.416B%usenet@estarcion.net, "Jonathan Greenberg" <usenet@estarcion.net> wrote:

```
> I'm trying to use READ_ASCII to read in a text file which contains
> parameters for the algorithm I'm developing (so the user just modifies the
> .csv file instead of having to type all the parameters into the idl command
>
> line). It appears to be defaulting to an array of floating points in the
> structure, but I want the values to be read in as text (they contain things
> like paths to certain file, etc). How do I "force" READ_ASCII to bring
> those values in as an array of strings?
>
>
> --j
>
```

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