
Subject: Re: Problem Compiling and Using Functions
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 23:04:21 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

```
> someone@someplace.com writes:
>
>> DOH!... Doh!... doh!... (echoing off into the distance) :)
>>
>> Thanks for your fast response. It works now.
>>
>> I'm new to IDL and I'm not used there being this difference between
>> functions and procedures.
>>
>> So, procedures don't return anything and functions *always* have to
>> return something and the calling function/procedure has handle them
>> correctly.
>
> Yes, this is correct. But if you are going to write your
> functions to return 0s, you have surmised correctly that
> you could just as well use a procedure. All arguments
> to procedures and function alike (including keyword
> arguments) can be passed by reference, so getting things
> into and out of procedure (as well as functions) is
> reasonably trivial.
>
> Just keep chanting to yourself "IDL is NOT C, IDL is NOT C."
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
```

Hmm I think there was a change you could write a function which does not need a return inside. It's not that's I like this. I like a clear definition as above.

```
IDL> $more test.pro
function test
```

```
end
```

```
IDL> a=test()
IDL> help,a
A      INT      =      0
```

cheers

Reimar
