
Subject: Re: compile a routine wich include a commun
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 24 Jan 2006 22:15:36 GMT
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On Tue, 24 Jan 2006 22:30:22 +0100, Fíç½LDY Lajos wrote:

```
> Hi,  
>  
> and the odd thing is, that functions sometimes return these references,  
> not the values:  
>  
> function f, arg  
> return, arg  
> end  
>  
> a=1  
> (f(a))=2  
> help, a  
>  
> A          INT      =      2  
>
```

Interesting. Try:

```
IDL> (f(a[0]))=2  
% Expression must be named variable in this context: <INT      (      2)>.  
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

and you'll see the distinction. Temporary variables can be used for many things, but direct assignment is not possible. One good use of temporary variables is subscripting or structure dereferencing them:

```
IDL> a=(size(b,/DIMENSIONS))[0]
```

JD
