
Subject: Re: newbie's question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 14 Apr 2007 17:04:46 GMT

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geonline714@gmail.com writes:

```
> I tried to run a script like this (stored in test.pro):
>
> array = ['one', 'two', 'three']
> print, array
> n = N_ELEMENTS(array)
> print, n
> FOR i=0,n-1 DO BEGIN
>   PRINT, array[i]
> ENDFOR
>
>
> However, I got error message as follows:
>
> IDL> @test
> one two three
>      3
> Attempt to subscript ARRAY with I is out of range.
> Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> ENDFOR
> ^
> Syntax error.
> At: E:\temp\test.pro, Line 7
>
>
> This is an example from IDL. Do you have any idea about what is going
> on?
```

The @ sign attempts to read the instructions in the file as if you were typing them at the IDL command line. That is, one after the other. But, it is VERY difficult to write multiple line commands, such as in your FOR loop, at the IDL command line. You will need line continuation and line concatenation symbols to do so. NO ONE WANTS TO DO THAT!

So, what you want to do is compile this bunch of commands you have FIRST, then execute that. BUT, in order to make these command compilable, there has to be an END statement at the end of the commands, so the compiler knows where to stop. That is what is missing in your code (and is probably what you have left out of the example).

What you want to do with this code is add an END statement.
Then compile the commands:

```
IDL> .compile test
```

Then run this main-level program:

```
IDL> .go
```

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
