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Subject: Re: [Q] readf into an array error  
Posted by [Ken Knighton](#) on Fri, 02 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT  
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```
> why does IDL give me an error when I try to do?  
>  
> a=fltarr(10)  
> i = 0  
> readf,unit,a(i)  
>
```

I'm not sure why IDL gives you an error, but

```
readf, unit,a(i)
```

is not going to read anything. `a(i)` is an expression rather than a variable. The `readf` statement requires a named variable in order to read anything. Try using

```
a=fltarr(10)  
i=0  
b=0.0  
readf, unit, b  
a(i)=b
```

This is actually mentioned somewhere in the i/o chapter of the user's manual.

Also, you might want to look at the `ASSOC()` function and associated i/o. Because you are reading an array, this might be a better solution.

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