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Subject: Reading Values into Individual Array Elements  
Posted by [Rolando Raqueno](#) on Tue, 12 Mar 1996 08:00:00 GMT  
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Hello,

I am trying to read values into an idl array and ran into the following behavior.

I tried reading directly into an array using the following steps

```
IDL> a=make_array(5)
IDL> print,a
    0.00000    0.00000    0.00000    0.00000    0.00000
IDL> read,a
: 1 2 3 4 5
IDL> print,a
    1.00000    2.00000    3.00000    4.00000    5.00000
```

Which works as I expected.

However, when I try to use a specific element in the array as an argument to the READ statement, IDL no longer prompts me for the value but returns value of the element as shown below.

```
IDL> read,a(3)
    4.00000IDL>
```

A workaround would be to use a scalar temporary variable and then assign it to the specific element, but that seemed a bit circuitous and not unlike other languages.

Is there something I am missing in this situation?

Thanks

Rolando Raqueno

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