
Subject: Re: Hey! Pssst! Wanna see something wierd?
Posted by [Joseph M Zawodny](#) on Mon, 03 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

```
>  
> Alright you IDL gurus. Explain this!  
>  
>   number = STRING(10)  
>   FOR j=0, number DO PRINT, 'Cool...!'  
>  
> Weird, huh. IDL reads my mind! :-)  
>  
> David
```

Well since the loop variable of a FOR loop has the type of the first parameter (namely whatever follows the equal sign) and all other parameters (end-value and step-value) converted to the same type, I am not surprised too much. The conversion of properly formatted string variables to byte, integer, float, ... is well known (look at READS function). I know this since I have had the misfortune of expecting the following to work.

```
for k=0,123456789L do ...
```

```
for k=0,5,0.1 do ...
```

Neither of them worked as I expected until rewritten as

```
for k=0L,123456789 do ...
```

```
for k=0.,5,0.1 do ...
```

Have fun!

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