
Subject: Re: the difference between ' and "
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 17 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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R. Bauer <r.bauer@kfa-juelich.de> writes:

```
> I found that's there is a difference for using ' or " to sign numbers as
> strings.
>
> IDL> a='1'
> IDL> a="1"
>
> a="1"
>   ^
> % Syntax error.
>
> The users guide said that both ' and " have the same useabilty.
>
> It's not true.
```

IDL has trouble with a="1" because it thinks you are trying to make the variable "a" the octal value 1. In other words,

```
a = "1
```

This is a result of using the same alphanumeric characters to designate octal and hexadecimal number as for the quote characters.

If you weren't trying to make strings of numbers, whether you used single or double quotes wouldn't matter. At least as long as you use them consistently. :-)

Cheers!

David

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
2642 Bradbury Court, Fort Collins, CO 80521
Phone: 970-221-0438 Fax: 970-221-4762
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com>
