
Subject: IsA questions

Posted by [Matthew Argall](#) on Tue, 10 Mar 2015 00:03:48 GMT

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Why are an invalid objects and pointers not scalars?

```
IDL> print, size(1)
      0      2      1
IDL> print, size(ptr_new())
      0     10      1
IDL> print, size(obj_new())
      0     11      1
IDL> print, isa(1, /SCALAR)
      1
IDL> print, isa(ptr_new(), /SCALAR)
      0
IDL> print, isa(obj_new(), /SCALAR)
      0
```

How is the /STRING keyword different from setting Typename to "String"?

```
IsA('theString', 'String')
IsA('theString', /STRING)
```

Finally, is this confusing to anyone else? Why not a /DECIMAL keyword instead?

```
a = 1.0d
PRINT, ISA(a, /FLOAT) ; 1
PRINT, ISA(a, 'Float') ; 0
```
