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Subject: elementary SAVE and COMMON BLOCKS  
Posted by [Libertan](#) on Wed, 31 Oct 2007 01:13:35 GMT  
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I have a very basic problem. I can't seem to save common blocks. Having read the documentation and tried SAVE with all its options (and permutations of them) I have still had no luck. I am, to be honest, completely stymied.

Take for example,

```
PRO main
common DATA, a
a=9
save, /ALL, filename='junk.sav'
END
```

As I understand it, this should save the DATA common block which contains the variable A.

```
PRO check
restore, 'junk.sav'
help
END
```

This should reveal that A is in DATA. I used procedures to ensure the common block is destroyed before restore is invoked. I suppose resetting idl at the half way point would also work.

Anyway, I find that A is saved as a local variable and there's no sign of the existence of the DATA common block. I've tried HELP, the bottom panel of the IDLDE GUI and the object method IDL\_Savefile, all of which have confirmed that junk.sav contains no common blocks.

Furthermore, and very confusingly, it seems I can't compile IDL procedures which reference DATA without DATA being previously defined in one of them. This seems to preclude the possibility of loading a common block of unknown size/contents. If common blocks always have to be explicitly defined, then what's the point in saving a common block? You might as well just save the variables.

A million thanks in advance.  
TSL

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