

Re: Basic Newbie Question: What's the "!=" operator for?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Word/microsoft.public.word.vba.general/2005-08/msg00679.html>

- *From:* "Jay Freedman" <jay.freedman@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 19 Aug 2005 16:56:28 -0400
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termiflyer wrote:

> See if I interpret this correctly. These are the same:
>
> oDoc.Protect _
> Type:=wdAllowOnlyFormFields, _
> NoReset:=True
>
> and
>
> oDoc.Protect(wdAllowOnlyFormFields, True)
>
> Using named parameters only makes the code more readable, nothing
> else?

Not quite... there's one more wrinkle in there.

If you omit the parameter names, then you must have at least a comma for every possible parameter up to the one just before the last value you supply, and you have to put the values in the order specified by the syntax diagram in the help. If you use the names, then you can include only the ones you're actually giving values for, in any order.

As an example, take the MsgBox function. The full syntax is

```
MsgBox(prompt[, buttons] [, title] [, helpfile, context])
```

Let's say I want to supply values for the prompt and title parameters, and accept the defaults for buttons, helpfile, and context. If I supply parameters by position (that is, without the names), then I have to write

```
MsgBox("Hello", , "My Title")
```

Notice the empty second comma, which serves as a placeholder for the buttons parameter.

If I use the names, then I can put in just the prompt and title without worrying about any of the default values, and I can even supply the values

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out of order:

```
MsgBox(title:="My Title", prompt:="Hello")
```

One other thing: Use the parentheses around the parameters only if you're going to use the return value of the function; if you're using it as a statement, omit the parentheses. See

<http://word.mvps.org/FAQs/MacrosVBA/BracketsWithArgmnts.htm> for explanation.

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Regards,

Jay Freedman

Microsoft Word MVP FAQ: <http://word.mvps.org>

• **References:**

- ◆ **[Basic Newbie Question: What's the ":= " operator for?](#)**
 ◇ From: termiflyer
- ◆ **[Re: Basic Newbie Question: What's the ":= " operator for?](#)**
 ◇ From: Charles Kenyon
- ◆ **[Re: Basic Newbie Question: What's the ":= " operator for?](#)**
 ◇ From: termiflyer
- ◆ **[Re: Basic Newbie Question: What's the ":= " operator for?](#)**
 ◇ From: Charles Kenyon
- ◆ **[Re: Basic Newbie Question: What's the ":= " operator for?](#)**
 ◇ From: termiflyer

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