

# Re: newbie: m-expressions

---

*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Lisp/comp.lang.lisp/2005-04/msg01738.html>

---

- *From:* David Steuber <[david@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:david@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 23 Apr 2005 22:33:54 -0400
- 

"falcon" <[shahbazc@xxxxxxxx](mailto:shahbazc@xxxxxxxx)> writes:

> Now I can parse my language and translate it to Lisp...but if there is  
> a well thought-out standard way of doing it (I hoped M-Expressions were  
> it) then it makes it easier for me.

Via Lemonoder:

[http://www.jroller.com/page/trasukg/20050419#while\\_writing\\_yaql\\_i\\_accidentally](http://www.jroller.com/page/trasukg/20050419#while_writing_yaql_i_accidentally)

You might find it interesting. As I understand Lisp history, the short version is that the S-expression syntax was used to work out the parse trees in lei of developing an M-expression syntax for production use. The problem was, the S-exp syntax was so nice and also highly amenable to macros (something no other language has done yet, so far as I know) that the Lispers came to love it and stuck with it.

I find it an amusing irony that the dreaded parenthesis of Lisp are the enabler of its awesome power.

--

An ideal world is left as an exercise to the reader.

--- Paul Graham, On Lisp 8.1

No excuses. No apologies. Just do it.

--- Erik Naggum

.

---

• *References:*

- ◆ *newbie: m-expressions*
    - ◇ *From:* falcon
  - ◆ *Re: newbie: m-expressions*
    - ◇ *From:* Kenny Tilton
  - ◆ *Re: newbie: m-expressions*
    - ◇ *From:* falcon
- Prev by Date: *help debugging function*
  - Next by Date: *Re: How to change people's minds about LISP?*

Re: newbie: m-expressions

- Previous by thread: [\*\*\*Re: newbie: m-expressions\*\*\*](#)
- Next by thread: [\*\*\*Re: newbie: m-expressions\*\*\*](#)
- Index(es):
  - ◆ [\*\*\*Date\*\*\*](#)
  - ◆ [\*\*\*Thread\*\*\*](#)