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Subject: Re: Reading string array  
Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Thu, 19 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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Neil Winrow wrote:

```
> I have the following problem:
>
> openr,10,filnam
> dataTitle = make_array(7,/string)
> for i=1,30 do readf,10,a      ;read the header information
> readf,10,dataTitle
> close,10
>
> The piece of code above is supposed to read over the header information
> in the data file, and read in the following column titles into
> dataTitle:
>
> X    Y    Z    FLUX  MAXL  MAXM  IMIN
>
> But this doesn't work, is there some obvious mistake I'm making with my
> code.
```

IDL has to know how long the individual strings are. You can use  
READF, 10, dataTitle, format='(7A7)'  
assuming that each string is seven characters long.

Another thing, I recomend using the GET\_LUN keyword with OPEN, so you  
don't have to hardcode the unit number.

```
OPENR, unit, filename, /GET_LUN
```

```
...
FREE_LUN, unit
```

Alex

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