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Subject: Re: convert string into the name of a variable  
Posted by [thompson](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2001 23:31:22 GMT  
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Frederic Raison <[frederic\\_raison@hotmail.com](mailto:frederic_raison@hotmail.com)> writes:

> Hi!

> Is there anybody who could tell me if there is an IDL instruction, like  
> in Matlab, able to convert a string into the name of a variable and  
> vice-versa? I mean if I have defined :

> a=1  
> b=2  
> list=['a','b']

> I would like to write:

> print,somme\_instruction(list[0])

> and to get:

> 1

> Thank you

> Frederic

The easiest way I can think of to do this would be

```
test=execute('print,'+list[0])
```

William Thompson

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