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Subject: Re: convert string into the name of a variable  
Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2001 22:47:37 GMT  
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Frederic Raison wrote:

```
>  
> 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
```

this'll get yer started

```
IDL> a=149  
IDL> b=273  
IDL> list=['a','b']  
IDL> result=execute('print,'+list[0])  
    149  
IDL> result=execute('print,'+list[1])  
    273
```

if the execute works, result = 1.

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