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Subject: Re: Variable name from string without EXECUTE  
Posted by [Jonathan Joseph](#) on Fri, 19 Dec 2003 15:48:27 GMT  
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I received this quick reply via email from RSI, which provides an excellent solution. I post it here for your enjoyment.

-Jonathan

You could create an anonymous structure from your input file name/value pairs (see `CREATE_STRUCT`), then pass the structure through as an `_EXTRA` keyword to your target function or procedure.

Here's a simple example

```
Field = 'linestyle'  
value = 3  
extra = create_struct(field, value)  
test, _extra = extra
```

```
Pro Test, linestyle = linestyle, other = other  
Plot, Findgen(10), Linestyle = linestyle  
Print, 'Was other passed? ', n_elements(other) ne 0  
End
```

You can retrieve information about allowed keywords to user-written procedures via the `/PARAMETERS` keyword to `ROUTINE_INFO`. (There is no equivalent for system-level IDL routines.)

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