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Subject: unformatted strings (reading)

Posted by [immel](#) on Sat, 03 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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Here's a question for anyone who reads unformatted strings.  
Is there a way to read a whole ,say 10 character, string at once  
in IDL? Here's what is happening to me.

1)Open an unformatted idl file and write a silly string like 'stumblefloppy'

```
get_lun,unit  
openw, unit, 'silly.dat'  
writeu,unit,'stumblefloppy'  
free_lun, unit
```

2) Try to read the string

```
bonk=' ' ; this is the string variable that I read into  
get_lun,unit  
openr, unit, 'silly.dat'  
readu, unit, bonk
```

3) OK, I'm ready to print 'stumblefloppy'!

```
print,bonk  
s
```

's' !?!? Just the first character. If I define bonk to be two spaces or three spaces then i get 'st' or 'stu' back. I know it's cause each character is 2 bytes or something like that. Is there any way, other than defining bonk as 13 blank spaces before reading, that I can read this string? Any bright ideas would be appreciated!

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P.S. Ken Knighton, whoever he is, is RIGHT ON!

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