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Subject: Re: procedure in case statement  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 15:52:25 GMT  
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Hmm. Not really. This is what I get (on the command line):

```
IDL> read,rot,prompt='rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)'
rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)3
IDL> help, rot
ROT          FLOAT    =    3.00000
```

So, you can see it assumes "rot" is a float by default.

Now let's try a string:

```
IDL> read,rot,prompt='rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)'
rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)proc_one
% READ: Input conversion error. Unit: 0, File: <stdin>
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

Oops. So, DavidF was correct. You have to cast the variable as a string before you use it as such:

```
IDL> rot=""
IDL> read,rot,prompt='rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)'
rot via proc one or two? (1 or 2)proc_one
IDL> help, rot
ROT          STRING   = 'proc_one'
```

```
IDL> print, !version
{ x86 linux unix linux 8.2 Apr 10 2012   32   64}
```

cheers,

paulv

On 11/19/12 10:46, hannah\_ue@web.de wrote:

```
> thanks for your answer. i do it exactly like you suggested, but always get the error "read: input
conversion error. unit: 0, file:<stdin>"
> do you have an idea what could be wrong?
>
> thanks, hannah
```