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Subject: Re: assigning integer and string value to same variable one by one  
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Sat, 09 Apr 2016 19:00:29 GMT  
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I would always read the user input as a string and use a function like

<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/misc/strnumber.pro>

to determine if the string can be converted to a numeric value.

```
ans = "  
for i=0,25 do begin  
    Read,'By seeing mplot give obj_col:' ans  
    if ~strnumber(ans,obj_col) then break  
    print,i  
endfor
```

On Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 7:34:17 AM UTC-4, Sapna Mishra wrote:

```
> Pro tt  
>  
> for i=0,25 do begin  
>   Print,'By seeing mplot give obj_col:'  
>     Read,obj_col  
>     wait,1  
>  
> if (STRMATCH(datatype(obj_col), 'STR', /FOLD_CASE) EQ 1) then i=i+1  
>  
>   print,i  
> endfor  
> return  
> end  
>  
>  
> IDL> .compile tt.pro  
> % Compiled module: TT.  
> IDL> tt  
> By seeing mplot give obj_col:  
> : 1  
> % Compiled module: DATATYPE.  
>   0  
> By seeing mplot give obj_col:  
> : 'q'  
> % READ: Input conversion error. Unit: 0, File: <stdin>  
> % Execution halted at: TT          5 /home/cs/dN_dz/Ana/tt.pro  
> %          $MAIN$  
> IDL>  
>  
>
```

- > Can't I give integer and string value to same variable if I want to jump on loop if the value of that input variable is a string??
  - > Any way out?
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