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Subject: Regular Expressions

Posted by [Wayne Landsman](#) on Thu, 15 Mar 2001 22:29:53 GMT

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The following is probably a simple question for anyone familiar with regular expressions, but I am still trying to learn the STREGEX function.

Suppose I want to find the first occurrence in a string of an 'l' that is not part of a double 'll'. For example, in the string

```
IDL> st = 'The rolling hills and lake'
```

I want to return the character position of the 'l' in lake (=21).

The following expression almost works -- it will search for any 'l' which is both preceded and followed by anything that is not "l"

```
IDL> print,stregex(st, '[^l][^l]' )
```

but it won't work for the string 'The rolling hills and pool' because the final 'l' has no characters following it. Any suggestions?

thanks, --Wayne Landsman  
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