Subject: Re: same question with correct reply Email address Posted by meron on Wed, 05 Dec 2001 23:37:18 GMT

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```
In article <3C0EA820.54127170@hotmail.com>, Frederic Raison <frederic raison@hotmail.com>
writes:
>
```

> Hi! > Sorry about my wrong email address. ITt was hotmail.com and not > hotmai.com... > Is there anybody who could tell me if there is an IDL instruction, like > in Matlab, able to convert a string into the name of a variable and > vice-versa? I mean if I have defined: > > a = 1> b=2> list=['a','b'] > > I would like to write: > print,somme_instruction(list[0]) > and to get: > 1

You can use EXECUTE. for example

```
IDL> a = 1
IDL > b = 2
IDL> c=3
IDL> dum = execute('res=exp(' + list[0] + ')')
IDL> print, res
   2.71828
IDL > dum = execute(res=exp(' + list[2] + ')')
IDL> print, res
   20.0855
```

It is useful at times, when you need the flexibility to build up an appropriate commend within a routine.

Mati Meron | "When you argue with a fool, meron@cars.uchicago.edu chances are he is doing just the same"