

**NAME**

prompt -- prompt user

**SYNOPSIS**

```
char punc;  
char instr[128];
```

```
prompt(str)  
char *str;
```

**DESCRIPTION**

Prompt prompts the user (on the standard error output) with what is in str and collects the user's response in instr. The returned value is the length of the string that the user typed in. The user response must be terminated by a '!' or a '/', which is not part of the response but is returned in punc. New lines and leading and trailing spaces are ignored.

**LIBRARY**

/lib/lib1.a

**DIAGNOSTICS**

If the standard input cannot be read, the result is as if a zero length string was read with the terminating punctuation '/'.