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Cursor with variable

Question: I'm trying to use a variable in an IN CLAUSE.

Assumptions & declarations:

1. Ref_cursor is of type REF CURSOR declared in Package
2. I will to pass a comma separated Numbers as a string
3. This should be used in the query in the IN Clause
4. Execute the Query and Return the Output as REF Cursor

Something similar to the following:

```
Create or Replace Function func_name (inNumbers in Varchar2)
  Return PackageName.ref_cursor
As
  out_cursor PackageName.Ref_cursor;
```

```
Begin
  Open out_cursor
  For Select * from Table_name
  where column_name in (inNumbers);
```

```
  Return out_cursor;
End;
```

I seem to be getting an error when I try the code above. How can I use a variable in an IN CLAUSE?

Answer: Unfortunately, there is no easy way to use a variable in an IN CLAUSE if the variable contains a list of items. We can, however, suggest two alternative options:

Option #1

Instead of creating a string variable that contains a list of numbers, you could try storing each value in a separate variable. For example:

```
Create or Replace Function func_name
  Return PackageName.ref_cursor
As
  out_cursor PackageName.Ref_cursor;
  v1 varchar(2);
```

```
v2 varchar(2);  
v3 varchar(2);
```

Begin

```
v1 := '1';  
v2 := '2';  
v3 := '3';
```

```
Open out_cursor  
For Select * from Table_name  
where column_name in (v1, v2, v3);
```

```
Return out_cursor;
```

End;

Option #2

You could try storing your values in a table. Then use a sub-select to retrieve the values.
For example:

```
Create or Replace Function func_name  
Return PackageName.ref_cursor  
As  
out_cursor PackageName.Ref_cursor;
```

Begin

```
Open out_cursor  
For Select * from Table_name  
where column_name in (select values from list_table);
```

```
Return out_cursor;
```

End;

In this example, we've stored our list in a table called *list_table*.