

# Escaping Variable References

You can reference a variable from an action by using percent signs, ie `%USERNAME%`. See [Using Variables](#).

To insert a percent sign, use `%%` - ie `%%Hello` will expand to `%Hello`.

Some other characters are also escaped:

## All Escape Sequences

Character	Escape As
<code>%</code>	<code>%%</code>
<code>#</code>	<code>##</code>
<code>\$(</code>	<code>\$\$(<code></code></code>



`$(` and `##` are deprecated ways of referring to variables and Target parameters. We recommend you use `%` wherever possible.

## Disabling Recursive Expansion

If you have a variable whose contents contain characters marked above, then you can use `!/USERNAME%` to tell Automise not to expand any variable references in the contents.

### Example

Suppose you had a project variable `MySQL`, which contained the text `"WHERE Connection LIKE 'G%'"`. If you reference the variable as `!/MySQL%`, then the contents will be inserted verbatim without being scanned for variable references.

## Reading Text Files

The [Read Text File](#) action has an "escape any variables" option which will automatically escape any variable references found when reading a file.