

## pragma — Suppressing warning messages

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## Description

pragma informs the compiler of your intentions so that the compiler can avoid presenting misleading warning messages and so that the compiler can better optimize the code.

## Syntax

```
pragma unset varname
```

```
pragma unused varname
```

## Remarks and examples

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Remarks are presented under the following headings:

```
pragma unset
pragma unused
```

### pragma unset

The pragma

```
pragma unset X
```

suppresses the warning message

```
note: variable X may be used before set.
```

The pragma has no effect on the resulting compiled code.

In general, the warning message flags logical errors in your program, such as

```
: function problem(real matrix a, real scalar j)
> {
>   real scalar i
>
>   j = i
>   ...
> }
note: variable i may be used before set.
```

Sometimes, however, the message is misleading:

```
: function notaproblem(real matrix a, real scalar j)
> {
>   real matrix V
>
>   st_view(V, ...)
>   ...
> }
note: variable V may be used before set.
```

In the above, function `st_view()` (see [M-5] `st_view()`) defines `V`, but the compiler does not know that.

The warning message causes no problem but, if you wish to suppress it, change the code to read

```
: function notaproblem(real matrix a, real scalar j)
> {
>   real matrix V
>
>   pragma unset V
>   st_view(V, ...)
>   ...
> }
```

`pragma unset V` states that you know `V` is unset and that, for warning messages, the compiler should act as if `V` were set at this point in your code.

### pragma unused

The pragma

```
pragma unused X
```

suppresses the warning messages

```
note: argument X unused.
note: variable X unused.
note: variable X set but not used.
```

The pragma has no effect on the resulting compiled code.

Intentionally unused variables most often arise with respect to function arguments. You code

```
: function resolve(A, B, C)
> {
>   ...
> }
note: argument C unused.
```

and you know well that you are not using `C`. You include the unnecessary argument because you are attempting to fit into a standard or you know that, later, you may wish to change the function to include `C`. To suppress the warning message, change the code to read

```
: function resolve(A, B, C)
> {
>   ...
>   pragma unused C
>   ...
> }
```

The pragma states that you know `C` is unused and, for the purposes of warning messages, the compiler should act as if `C` were used at this point in your code.

Unused variables can also arise, and in general, they should simply be removed,

```
: function resin(X, Y)
> {
>     real scalar i
>     ...
>     ... code in which i never appears
>     ...
> }
note: variable i unused.
```

Rather than using the pragma to suppress the message, you should remove the line `real scalar i`.

Warnings are also given for variables that are set and not used:

```
: function thwart(X, Y)
> {
>     real scalar i
>     ...
>     i = 1
>     ...
>     ... code in which i never appears
>     ...
> }
note: variable i set but unused.
```

Here you should remove both the `real scalar i` and `i = 1` lines.

It is possible, however, that the set-but-unused variable was intentional:

```
: function thwart(X, Y)
> {
>     real scalar i
>     ...
>     i = somefunction(...)
>     ...
>     ... code in which i never appears
>     ...
> }
note: variable i set but not used.
```

You assigned the value of `somefunction()` to `i` to prevent the result from being displayed. Here you could use `pragma unused i` to suppress the warning message, but a better alternative would be

```
: function thwart(X, Y)
> {
>     ...
>     (void) somefunction(...)
>     ...
> }
```

See [Assignment suppresses display, as does \(void\) in \[M-2\] exp](#).

## Also see

[M-2] [Intro](#) — Language definition



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For suggested citations, see the FAQ on [citing Stata documentation](#).