Title

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use — Load Stata dataset

Description

use loads into memory a Stata-format dataset previously saved by save. If *filename* is specified without an extension, .dta is assumed. If your *filename* contains embedded spaces, remember to enclose it in double quotes.

In the second syntax for use, a subset of the data may be read.

Quick start

Load Stata-format dataset mydata.dta into memory from current directory
```
use mydata
```

Same as above, but load data from the mysubdir subdirectory in current directory and clear current data from memory first
```
use mysubdir/mydata, clear
```

Load only variables v1, v2, and v3 from mydata.dta
```
use v1 v2 v3 using mydata
```

Same as above, and further restrict to the first 100 observations
```
use v1 v2 v3 in 1/100 using mydata
```

Load observations from mydata.dta where $catvar = 2$
```
use if catvar==2 using mydata
```

Menu

File $>$ Open...

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Syntax

Load Stata-format dataset

 <u>u</u>se *filename* [, clear <u>nol</u>abel]

Load subset of Stata-format dataset

 <u>u</u>se [*varlist*] [*if*] [*in*] using *filename* [, clear <u>nol</u>abel]

Options

clear specifies that it is okay to replace the data in memory, even though the current data have not
been saved to disk.

nolabel prevents value labels in the saved data from being loaded. It is unlikely that you will ever
want to specify this option.

Remarks and examples   stata.com

▷ Example 1

 We have no data in memory. In a previous session, we issued the command save hiway to save
the Minnesota Highway Data that we had been analyzing. We retrieve it now:

```
. use hiway
(Minnesota Highway Data, 1973)
```

Stata loads the data into memory and shows us that the dataset is labeled "Minnesota Highway Data,
1973".
                                                                                          ◁

▷ Example 2

 We continue to work with our hiway data and find an error in our data that needs correcting:

```
. replace spdlimit=70 in 1
(1 real change made)
```

 We remember that we need to forward some information from another dataset to a colleague. We
use that other dataset:

```
. use accident
no; dataset in memory has changed since last saved
r(4);
```

Stata refuses to load the data because we have not saved the hiway data since we changed it.

```
. save hiway, replace
file hiway.dta saved
. use accident
(Minnesota accident data)
```

After we save our `hiway` data, Stata lets us load our `accident` dataset. If we had not cared whether our changed `hiway` dataset were saved, we could have typed `use accident, clear` to tell Stata to load the accident data without saving the changed dataset in memory.

◁

❑ Technical note

In example 2, you saved a revised `hiway.dta` dataset, which you forward to your colleague. Your colleague issues the command

```
. use hiway
```

and gets the message

```
file hiway.dta not Stata format
r(610);
```

Your colleague is using a version of Stata older than Stata 14. If your colleague is using Stata 11, 12, or 13, you can save the dataset in Stata 11, 12, or 13 format by using the `saveold` command; see [D] **save**.

Newer versions of Stata can always read datasets created by older versions of Stata. Stata/MP and Stata/SE can read datasets created by Stata/BE. Stata/BE can read datasets created by Stata/MP and Stata/SE if those datasets conform to Stata/BE's limits; see [R] **Limits**.

❑

▷ Example 3

If you are using a dataset that is too large for the amount of memory on your computer, you could load only some of the variables:

```
. use ln_wage grade age tenure race using
> https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/nlswork
(National Longitudinal Survey of Young Women, 14-24 years old in 1968)
. describe
Contains data from https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/nlswork.dta
 Observations:         28,534                  National Longitudinal Survey of
                                                 Young Women, 14-24 years old in
                                                 1968
    Variables:              5                  27 Nov 2022 08:14
                                               (_dta has notes)
```

Variable name	Storage type	Display format	Value label	Variable label
age	byte	%8.0g		Age in current year
race	byte	%8.0g	racelbl	Race
grade	byte	%8.0g		Current grade completed
tenure	float	%9.0g		Job tenure, in years
ln_wage	float	%9.0g		ln(wage/GNP deflator)

```
Sorted by:
```

Stata successfully loaded the five variables.

◁

▷ Example 4

You are new to Stata and want to try working with a Stata dataset that was used in example 1 of [XT] **xtlogit**. You load the dataset:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/union
(NLS Women 14-24 in 1968)
```

The dataset is successfully loaded, but it would have been shorter to type

```
. webuse union
(NLS Women 14-24 in 1968)
```

webuse is a synonym for use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/; see [D] **webuse**.   ◁

Also see

[D] **compress** — Compress data in memory

[D] **datasignature** — Determine whether data have changed

[D] **frames use** — Load a set of frames from disk

[D] **import** — Overview of importing data into Stata

[D] **save** — Save Stata dataset

[D] **sysuse** — Use shipped dataset

[D] **webuse** — Use dataset from Stata website

[U] **11.6 Filenaming conventions**

[U] **22 Entering and importing data**