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Description

`collect preview` displays a preview of a table in a collection based on the specified layout, labels, and styles.

Syntax

```
collect preview [ , name(cname) noblank]
```

where *cname* is the name of an existing collection.

Options

`name(cname)` specifies the collection for which a preview should be displayed. By default, the preview is for a table in the current collection.

`noblank` prevents `collect preview` from putting a blank line before its output. By default, `collect preview` will insert a blank line before its output.

Remarks and examples

Building and customizing a table is often an iterative process. `collect preview` allows you to see what your table looks like at each step of that process.

To demonstrate, we first collect results using the `collect` prefix and lay out a table using `collect layout`.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/nhanes2
. quietly: collect _r_b: regress bpsystol bmi
. quietly: collect _r_b: regress bpsystol bmi age
. collect layout (colname) (cmdset#result)
```

```
Collection: default
  Rows: colname
  Columns: cmdset#result
Table 1: 3 x 2
```

	1	2
	Coefficient	Coefficient
Body mass index (BMI)	1.656894	1.304128
Age (years)		.5883367
Intercept	88.56855	69.58451

When we use `collect layout`, we automatically get a preview of our table. However, after other commands that we use to make changes to this table, we need to request a preview to see the results. For instance, we might change labels.

```
. collect label levels cmdset 1 "Model 1" 2 "Model 2"
```

To see the effect of that change, we type

```
. collect preview
```

	Model 1	Model 2
	Coefficient	Coefficient
Body mass index (BMI)	1.656894	1.304128
Age (years)		.5883367
Intercept	88.56855	69.58451

There are many other style and label changes that we could make. For instance, here we hide `Coefficient` from column headers, add extra space between columns, and specify a numeric format. Following those changes, we again preview the table to see the results.

```
. collect style header result, level(hide)
. collect style column, extraspace(1)
. collect style cell, nformat(%6.2f)
. collect preview
```

	Model 1	Model 2
Body mass index (BMI)	1.66	1.30
Age (years)		0.59
Intercept	88.57	69.58

In fact, we might have typed `collect preview` after each of these commands to see the result.

Alternatively, we could point and click to make changes to the table and automatically see a preview of the table with modifications in the [Tables Builder](#).

For information on style and label commands we used here, see [\[TABLES\] collect label](#), [\[TABLES\] collect style header](#), [\[TABLES\] collect style column](#), and [\[TABLES\] collect style cell](#).

Stored results

`collect preview` stores the following in `s()`:

Macros

<code>s(collection)</code>	name of collection
<code>s(rows)</code>	rows specification
<code>s(columns)</code>	columns specification
<code>s(tables)</code>	tables specification
<code>s(k_tables)</code>	number of tables
<code>s(table#)</code>	layout for the #th table

Also see

[\[TABLES\] Tables Builder](#) — Tables Builder

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