

dir — Display filenames

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Syntax

```
{dir|ls} ["][filespec]" [ , wide]
```

Note: Double quotes must be used to enclose *filespec* if the name contains spaces.

Description

`dir` and `ls`—they work the same way—list the names of files in the specified directory; the names of the commands come from names popular on Unix and Windows computers. *filespec* may be any valid Mac, Unix, or Windows file path or file specification (see [\[U\] 11.6 Filenaming conventions](#)) and may include ‘*’ to indicate any string of characters.

Option

`wide` under Mac and Windows produces an effect similar to specifying `/W` with the DOS `dir` command—it compresses the resulting listing by placing more than one filename on a line. Under Unix, it produces the same effect as typing `ls -F -C`. Without the `wide` option, `ls` is equivalent to typing `ls -F -l`.

Remarks and examples

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Mac and Unix: The only difference between the Stata and Unix `ls` commands is that piping through the `more(1)` or `pg(1)` filter is unnecessary—Stata always pauses when the screen is full.

Windows: Other than minor differences in presentation format, there is only one difference between the Stata and DOS `dir` commands: the DOS `/P` option is unnecessary, because Stata always pauses when the screen is full.

▷ Example 1

The only real difference between the Stata `dir` and DOS and Unix equivalent commands is that output never scrolls off the screen; Stata always pauses when the screen is full.

If you use Stata for Windows and wish to obtain a list of all your Stata-format data files, type

```
. dir *.dta
 3.9k  7/07/00 13:51  auto.dta
 0.6k  8/04/00 10:40  cancer.dta
 3.5k  7/06/98 17:06  census.dta
 3.4k  1/25/98  9:20  hsng.dta
 0.3k  1/26/98 16:54  kva.dta
 0.7k  4/27/00 11:39  sysage.dta
 0.5k  5/09/97  2:56  systolic.dta
10.3k  7/13/98  8:37  Household Survey.dta
```

You could also include the wide option:

```
. dir *.dta, wide
 3.9k auto.dta          0.6k cancer.dta      3.5k census.dta
 3.4k hsng.dta         0.3k kva.dta         0.7k sysage.dta
 0.5k systolic.dta    10.3k Household Survey.dta
```

Unix users will find it more natural to type

```
. ls *.dta
-rw-r----- 1 roger      2868 Mar  4 15:34 highway.dta
-rw-r----- 1 roger        941 Apr  5 09:43 hoyle.dta
-rw-r----- 1 roger     19312 May 14 10:36 p1.dta
-rw-r----- 1 roger     11838 Apr 11 13:26 p2.dta
```

but they could type `dir` if they preferred. Mac users may also type either command.

```
. dir *.dta
-rw-r----- 1 roger      2868 Mar  4 15:34 highway.dta
-rw-r----- 1 roger        941 Apr  5 09:43 hoyle.dta
-rw-r----- 1 roger     19312 May 14 10:36 p1.dta
-rw-r----- 1 roger     11838 Apr 11 13:26 p2.dta
```

◀

□ Technical note

There is an extended macro function named `dir` which allows you to obtain a list of files in a macro for later processing. See [Macro extended functions for filenames and file paths](#) in [P] [macro](#).

□

Also see

- [D] [cd](#) — Change directory
- [D] [copy](#) — Copy file from disk or URL
- [D] [erase](#) — Erase a disk file
- [D] [mkdir](#) — Create directory
- [D] [rmdir](#) — Remove directory
- [D] [shell](#) — Temporarily invoke operating system
- [D] [type](#) — Display contents of a file
- [U] [11.6 Filenaming conventions](#)