

**help** — Display help in Stata

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## Syntax

```
help [ command_or_topic_name ] [ , nonew name(viewername) marker(markername) ]
```

## Menu

Help &gt; Stata Command...

## Description

The **help** command displays help information about the specified command or topic.

Stata for Mac, Stata for Unix(GUI), and Stata for Windows:

**help** launches a new Viewer to display help for the specified command or topic. If **help** is not followed by a command or a topic name, Stata launches the Viewer and displays **help\_help\_advice**, advice for using the help system and documentation.

Help may be accessed either by selecting **Help > Stata Command...** and filling in the desired command name or by typing **help** followed by a command or topic name.

Stata for Unix(console):

Typing **help** followed by a command name or a topic name will display help on the console.

If **help** is not followed by a command or a topic name, a description of how to use the help system is displayed.

## Options

**nonew** specifies that a new Viewer window not be opened for the help topic if a Viewer window is already open. The default is for a new Viewer window to be opened each time **help** is typed so that multiple help files may be viewed at once. **nonew** causes the help file to be displayed in the topmost open Viewer.

**name**(*viewername*) specifies that help be displayed in a Viewer window named *viewername*. If the named window already exists, its contents will be replaced. If the named window does not exist, it will be created.

**marker**(*markername*) specifies that the help file be opened to the position of *markername* within the help file.

## Remarks and examples

stata.com

To obtain help for any Stata command, type **help** *command* or select **Help > Stata Command...** and fill in *command*.

`help` is best explained by examples.

To obtain help for ...	type
<code>regress</code>	<code>help regress</code>
postestimation tools for <code>regress</code>	<code>help regress postestimation</code> or <code>help regress post</code>
graph option <code>xlabel()</code>	<code>help graph xlabel()</code>
Stata function <code>strpos()</code>	<code>help strpos()</code>
Mata function <code>optimize()</code>	<code>help mata optimize()</code>

Tips:

- `help` displays advice for using the help system and documentation.
- `help guide` displays a table of contents for basic Stata concepts.
- `help estimation commands` displays an alphabetical listing of all Stata estimation commands.
- `help functions` displays help on Stata functions by category.
- `help mata functions` displays a subject table of contents for Mata's functions.
- `help ts glossary` displays the glossary for the time-series manual, and similarly for the other Stata specialty manuals.

If you type `help topic` and help for *topic* is not found, Stata will automatically perform a search for *topic*.

For instance, try typing `help forecasting`. A forecasting help file is not found, so Stata executes `search forecasting` and displays the results in the Viewer.

See [U] 4 Stata's help and search facilities for a complete description of how to use `help`.

### □ Technical note

When you type `help topic`, Stata first looks along the `adopath` for `topic.sthlp`; see [U] 17.5 Where does Stata look for ado-files? □

### Video examples

[Quick help in Stata](#)

### Also see

[R] [net search](#) — Search the Internet for installable packages

[R] [search](#) — Search Stata documentation and other resources

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[GSU] 4 [Getting help](#)

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