

**sem and gsem syntax options** — Options affecting interpretation of syntax

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## Syntax

`sem` *paths* ... , ... *syntax\_options*

`gsem` *paths* ... , ... *syntax\_options*

<i>syntax_options</i>	Description
<code>latent(names)</code>	explicitly specify latent variable names
<code>nocapslatent</code>	do not treat capitalized <i>Names</i> as latent

where *names* is a space-separated list of the names of the latent variables.

## Description

These options affect some minor issues of how `sem` and `gsem` interpret what you type.

## Options

`latent(names)` specifies that *names* is the full set of names of the latent variables. `sem` and `gsem` ordinarily assume that latent variables have the first letter capitalized and observed variables have the first letter lowercased; see [SEM] [sem and gsem path notation](#). When you specify `latent(names)`, `sem` and `gsem` treat the listed variables as the latent variables and all other variables, regardless of capitalization, as observed. `latent()` implies `nocapslatent`.

`nocapslatent` specifies that having the first letter capitalized does not designate a latent variable. This option can be used when fitting models with observed variables only where some observed variables in the dataset have the first letter capitalized.

## Remarks and examples

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We recommend using the default naming convention. If your dataset contains variables with the first letter capitalized, it is easy to convert the variables to have lowercase names by typing

```
. rename *, lower
```

See [D] [rename group](#).

## Also see

[SEM] [sem](#) — Structural equation model estimation command

[SEM] [gsem](#) — Generalized structural equation model estimation command

[SEM] [sem and gsem path notation](#) — Command syntax for path diagrams