

**rename** — Rename variable

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## Description

`rename` changes the name of existing variable *old\_varname* to *new\_varname*; the contents of the variable are unchanged. Also see [\[D\] rename group](#) for renaming groups of variables.

## Quick start

Change the name of `v1` to `var1`

```
rename v1 var1
```

Also change the name of `v2` to `var2`

```
rename v2 var2
```

## Menu

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## Syntax

```
rename old_varname new_varname
```

## Remarks and examples

### ▶ Example 1

`rename` allows you to change variable names. Say that we have labor market data for siblings.

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r14/renamexmpl
. describe
```

Contains data from http://www.stata-press.com/data/r14/renamexmpl.dta

```
obs:           277
vars:           6                9 Jan 2014 11:57
size:          6,648
```

| variable name | storage type | display format | value label | variable label |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| famid         | float        | %9.0g          |             |                |
| edu           | float        | %9.0g          |             |                |
| exp           | float        | %9.0g          |             |                |
| promo         | float        | %9.0g          |             |                |
| sex           | float        | %9.0g          | sex         |                |
| inc           | float        | %9.0g          |             |                |

Sorted by: famid

We decide to rename the `exp` and `inc` variables.

```
. rename exp experience
. rename inc income
. describe
```

Contains data from <http://www.stata-press.com/data/r14/renamexmpl.dta>

```
obs:      277
vars:      6                      9 Jan 2014 11:57
size:     6,648
```

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| variable name | storage<br>type | display<br>format | value<br>label | variable label |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| famid         | float           | %9.0g             |                |                |
| edu           | float           | %9.0g             |                |                |
| experience    | float           | %9.0g             |                |                |
| promo         | float           | %9.0g             |                |                |
| sex           | float           | %9.0g             | sex            |                |
| income        | float           | %9.0g             |                |                |

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Sorted by: famid

Note: Dataset has changed since last saved.

The `exp` variable is now called `experience`, and the `inc` variable is now called `income`.

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## References

- Cox, N. J., and J. Weesie. 2001. [dm88: Renaming variables, multiply and systematically](#). *Stata Technical Bulletin* 60: 4–6. Reprinted in *Stata Technical Bulletin Reprints*, vol. 10, pp. 41–44. College Station, TX: Stata Press.
- . 2005. [Software Updates: Renaming variables, multiply and systematically](#). *Stata Journal* 5: 607.
- Jenkins, S. P., and N. J. Cox. 2001. [dm83: Renaming variables: Changing suffixes](#). *Stata Technical Bulletin* 59: 5–6. Reprinted in *Stata Technical Bulletin Reprints*, vol. 10, pp. 34–35. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

## Also see

- [D] [rename group](#) — Rename groups of variables
- [D] [generate](#) — Create or change contents of variable
- [D] [varmanage](#) — Manage variable labels, formats, and other properties