Title

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graph drop — Drop graphs from memory

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Description

`graph drop` *name* drops (discards) the specified graphs from memory and closes any associated Graph windows.

`graph drop _all` drops all graphs from memory and closes all associated Graph windows.

Quick start

Drop `mygraph1` from memory

```
graph drop mygraph1
```

Drop `mygraph2` and `mygraph3` from memory

```
graph drop mygraph2 mygraph3
```

Drop all graphs from memory

```
graph drop _all
```

Drop all graphs starting with `p` from memory

```
graph drop p*
```

As above, but also drop `mygraph3` from memory

```
graph drop p* mygraph3
```

Menu

Graphics > Manage graphs > Drop graphs

Syntax

Drop named graphs from memory

`graph drop` *name* [*name* ...]

Drop all graphs from memory

`graph drop _all`

name is the name of a graph currently in memory or the partial name of a graph in memory with the `?` and `*` wildcard characters.

Remarks and examples

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See [G-2] **graph manipulation** for an introduction to the graph manipulation commands.

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

Typical use
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Typical use

Graphs contain the data they display, so when datasets are large, graphs can consume much memory. `graph drop` frees that memory. `Graph` is the name of a graph when you do not specify otherwise.

```
. graph twoway scatter faminc educ, ms(p)
. ...
. graph drop Graph
```

We often use graphs in memory to prepare the pieces for `graph combine`:

```
. graph ..., ... name(p1)
. graph ..., ... name(p2)
. graph ...   , ... name(p3)
. graph combine p1 p2 p3, ... saving(result, replace)
. graph drop _all
```

Relationship between graph drop _all and discard

The `discard` command performs `graph drop _all` and more:

1. `discard` eliminates prior estimation results and automatically loaded programs and thereby frees even more memory.
2. `discard` closes any open dialog boxes and thereby frees even more memory.

We nearly always type `discard` in preference to `graph drop _all` if only because `discard` has fewer characters. The exception to that is when we have fit a model and still plan on redisplaying prior results, performing tests on that model, or referring to `_b[]`, `_se[]`, etc.

See [P] **discard** for a description of the `discard` command.

Erasing graphs on disk

`graph drop` is not used to erase `.gph` files; instead, use Stata's standard `erase` command:

```
. erase matfile.gph
```

Also see

[G-2] **graph close** — Close Graph windows

[G-2] **graph manipulation** — Graph manipulation commands

[D] **erase** — Erase a disk file

[P] **discard** — Drop automatically loaded programs