

## reswords — Reserved words

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## Description

Reserved words are words reserved by the Mata compiler; they may not be used to name either variables or functions.

## Syntax

Reserved words are

aggregate	float	pointer	union
array	for	polymorphic	unsigned
boolean	friend	pragma	using
break	function	private	vector
byte	global	protected	version
case	goto	public	virtual
catch	if	quad	void
class	inline	real	volatile
colvector	int	return	while
complex	local	rowvector	
const	long	scalar	
continue	mata	short	
default	matrix	signed	
delegate	namespace	static	
delete	new	string	
do	NULL	strL	
double	numeric	struct	
else	operator	super	
eltypedef	orgtypedef	switch	
end		template	
enum		this	
explicit		throw	
export		transmorphic	
external		try	
		typedef	
		typename	

## Remarks and examples

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

*Future developments*  
*Version control*

### Future developments

Many of the words above are reserved for the future implementation of new features. For instance, the words `aggregate`, `array`, `boolean`, `byte`, etc., currently play no role in Mata, but they are reserved.

You cannot infer much about short-run development plans from the presence or absence of a word from the list. The list was constructed by including words that would be needed to add certain features, but we have erred on the side of reserving too many words because it is better to give back a word than to take it away later. Taking away a word can cause previously written code to break.

Also, features can be added without reserving words if the word will be used only within a specific context. Our original list was much longer, but then we struck from it such context-specific words.

### Version control

Even if we should need to reserve new words in the future, you can ensure that you need not modify your programs by engaging in version control; see [\[M-2\] \*\*version\*\*](#).

### Also see

[\[M-1\] \*\*naming\*\*](#) — Advice on naming functions and variables

[\[M-2\] \*\*version\*\*](#) — Version control

[\[M-2\] \*\*intro\*\*](#) — Language definition