

**nopreserve option** — nopreserve option

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## Description

Some Stata commands have a `nopreserve` option. This option is for use by programmers when `stata_command` is used as a subroutine of another command.

## Syntax

```
stata_command ... [ , ... nopreserve ... ]
```

## Option

`nopreserve` specifies that `stata_command` need not bother to `preserve` the data in memory. The usual situation is that `stata_command` is being used as a subroutine by another program, the data in memory have been preserved by the caller, and the caller will not need to access the data again before the data are restored from the caller's preserved copy.

## Remarks and examples

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Some commands change the data in memory in the process of performing their task even though the command officially does not change the data in memory. Such commands achieve this by using `preserve` to make a temporary copy of the data on disk, which is later restored to memory.

Even some commands whose entire purpose is to make a modification to the data in memory sometimes make temporary copies of the data just in case the user should press *Break* while the changes to the data are still being completed.

This is done using `preserve`; see [\[P\] preserve](#).

Assume `alpha` and `beta` are each implemented using `preserve`. Assume that `alpha` uses `beta` as a subroutine. If `alpha` itself does not intend to use the data after calling `beta`, then `beta` preserving and restoring the data is unnecessary because `alpha` already has preserved the data from which memory will be restored. Then `alpha` should specify the `nopreserve` option when calling `beta`.

## Also see

[\[P\] preserve](#) — Preserve and restore data