

**set locale\_functions** — Specify default locale for functions

[Description](#)    [Syntax](#)    [Option](#)    [Also see](#)

## Description

`set locale_functions` sets the locale to be used by functions that take *locale* as an optional argument: `ustrupper()`, `ustrlower()`, `ustrtitle()`, `ustrword()`, `ustrwordcount()`, `ustrcompare()`, and `ustrsortkey()` and their Mata equivalents. When the argument is not specified, the `locale_functions` setting is used. If `locale_functions` is not set, the default ICU locale is used.

For example, if your operating system is Microsoft Windows English version, the system locale may be "en". If you chose the specific country to be the United States during installation of your OS, then the system locale is most likely "en\_US". If `locale_functions` is not set or is set to default, then calling `ustrupper("istanbul")` is equivalent to calling `ustrupper("istanbul", "en_US")`, which returns ISTANBUL. However, if `locale_functions` is set to "tr" for Turkish, then calling `ustrupper("istanbul")` is equivalent to calling `ustrupper("istanbul", "tr")`, which returns İSTANBUL. For further discussion of locales, see [U] 12.4.2.4 [Locales in Unicode](#).

Note that although ICU does not validate locales, Stata validates the language subtag of the `locale_functions` setting. It must be a valid ISO-639-2 language code. See the ISO-639-2 list at <http://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/>.

The current `locale_functions` setting is stored in `c(locale_functions)`. `c(locale_functions)` is reset to its original value when a program or do-file exits.

## Syntax

*Use the system locale for Unicode functions*

```
set locale_functions default [ , permanently ]
```

*Specify a locale for Unicode functions*

```
set locale_functions locale [ , permanently ]
```

## Option

`permanently` specifies that, in addition to making the change right now, the setting be remembered and become the default setting when you invoke Stata.

## Also see

- [P] [creturn](#) — Return c-class values
- [R] [query](#) — Display system parameters
- [R] [set](#) — Overview of system parameters