Title

error messages — Error messages and return codes

Description Also see

Description

Whenever Stata detects that something is wrong—that what you typed is uninterpretable, that you are trying to do something you should not be trying to do, or that you requested the impossible—Stata responds by typing a message describing the problem, together with a *return code*. For instance,

```
. lsit
command lsit is unrecognized
r(199);

. list myvar
variable myvar not found
r(111);

. test a=b
last estimates not found
r(301);
```

In each case, the message is probably sufficient to guide you to a solution. When we typed `lsit`, Stata responded with "unrecognized command". We meant to type `list`. When we typed `list myvar`, Stata responded with "variable myvar not found". There is no variable named `myvar` in our data. When we typed `test a=b`, Stata responded with "last estimates not found". `test` tests hypotheses about previously fit models, and we have not yet fit a model.

The numbers in parentheses in the `r(199)`, `r(111)`, and `r(301)` messages are called the *return codes*. To find out more about these messages, type `search rc #`, where # is the number returned in the parentheses.

▷ Example 1

```
. search rc 301

[P]     error messages . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Return code 301
        last estimates not found;
        You typed an estimation command such as regress without arguments
        or attempted to perform a test or typed predict, but there were no
        previous estimation results.
```

◁

Programmers should see [P] **error** for details on programming error messages.

Also see

[R] **search** — Search Stata documentation and other resources