

**break** — Suppress Break key[Description](#)[Syntax](#)[Remarks and examples](#)[Also see](#)

## Description

`nobreak` temporarily turns off recognition of the *Break* key. It is seldom used. `break` temporarily reestablishes recognition of the *Break* key within a `nobreak` block. It is even more seldom used.

## Syntax

```
nobreak stata_command
```

```
break stata_command
```

Typical usage is

```
nobreak {
    ...
    capture noisily break ...
    ...
}
```

## Remarks and examples

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Stata commands honor the *Break* key. This honoring is automatic and, for the most part, requires no special code, as long as you follow these guidelines:

1. Obtain names for new variables from `tempvar`; see [\[U\] 18.7.1 Temporary variables](#).
2. Obtain names for other memory aggregates, such as scalars and matrices, from `tempname`; see [\[U\] 18.7.2 Temporary scalars and matrices](#).
3. If you need to temporarily change the user's data, use `preserve` to save it first; see [\[U\] 18.6 Temporarily destroying the data in memory](#).
4. Obtain names for temporary files from `tempfile`; see [\[U\] 18.7.3 Temporary files](#).

If you follow these guidelines, your program will be robust to the user pressing *Break* because Stata itself will be able to put things back as they were.

Still, sometimes a program must commit to executing a group of commands that, if *Break* were honored in the midst of the group, would leave the user's data in an intermediate, undefined state. `nobreak` is for those instances.

## ▷ Example 1

You are writing a program and following all the guidelines listed above. In particular, you are using temporary variables. At a point in your program, however, you wish to `list` the first five values of the temporary variable. You would like, temporarily, to give the variable a pretty name, so you temporarily rename it. If the user were to press *Break* during the period, the variable would be renamed; however, Stata would not know to drop it, and it would be left behind in the user's data. You wish to avoid this. In the code fragment below, 'myv' is the temporary variable:

```
nobreak {
    rename 'myv' Result
    list Result in 1/5
    rename Result 'myv'
}
```

It would not be appropriate to code the fragment as

```
nobreak rename 'myv' Result
nobreak list Result in 1/5
nobreak rename Result 'myv'
```

because the user might press *Break* during the periods between the commands.

◀

**Also see**

[P] **capture** — Capture return code

[P] **continue** — Break out of loops

[P] **quietly** — Quietly and noisily perform Stata command

[P] **varabbrev** — Control variable abbreviation

[U] **9 The Break key**

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