

## Description

`clonevar` generates *newvar* as an exact copy of an existing variable, *varname*, with the same storage type, values, and display format as *varname*. *varname*'s variable label, value labels, notes, and characteristics will also be copied.

## Quick start

Copy contents, label, and value label of `v1` to `newv1`

```
clonevar newv1 = v1
```

Copy observations from `v2` to `newv2` where `v2` is less than 30

```
clonevar newv2 = v2 if v2 < 30
```

Copy the first 20 observations of `v3` to `newv3`

```
clonevar newv3 = v3 in f/20
```

Same as above

```
clonevar newv3 = v3 in 1/20
```

## Menu

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## Syntax

```
clonevar newvar = varname [if] [in]
```

## Remarks and examples

`clonevar` has various possible uses. Programmers may desire that a temporary variable appear to the user exactly like an existing variable. Interactively, you might want a slightly modified copy of an original variable, so the natural starting point is a clone of the original.

## ► Example 1

We have a dataset containing information on modes of travel. These data contain a variable named `mode` that identifies each observation as a specific mode of travel: air, train, bus, or car.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/travel
(Modes of travel)
```

```
. describe mode
```

Variable name	Storage type	Display format	Value label	Variable label
------------------	-----------------	-------------------	----------------	----------------

mode	byte	%8.0g	travel	Travel mode alternatives
------	------	-------	--------	--------------------------

```
. label list travel
```

```
travel:
```

```

1 Air
2 Train
3 Bus
4 Car
```

To create an identical variable identifying only observations that contain air or train, we could use `clonevar` with an `if` qualifier.

```
. clonevar airtrain = mode if mode == 1 | mode == 2
(420 missing values generated)
```

```
. describe mode airtrain
```

Variable name	Storage type	Display format	Value label	Variable label
------------------	-----------------	-------------------	----------------	----------------

mode	byte	%8.0g	travel	Travel mode alternatives
------	------	-------	--------	--------------------------

airtrain	byte	%8.0g	travel	Travel mode alternatives
----------	------	-------	--------	--------------------------

```
. list mode airtrain in 1/5
```

	mode	airtrain
1.	Air	Air
2.	Train	Train
3.	Bus	.
4.	Car	.
5.	Air	Air

The new `airtrain` variable has the same storage type, display format, value label, and variable label as `mode`. If `mode` had any characteristics or notes attached to it, they would have been applied to the new `airtrain` variable, too. The only differences in the two variables are their names and values for bus and car.



## □ Technical note

The `if` qualifier used with the `clonevar` command in example 1 referred to the values of `mode` as 1 and 2. Had we wanted to refer to the values by their associated value labels, we could have typed

```
. clonevar airtrain = mode if mode == "air":travel | mode == "train":travel
```

For more details, see [\[U\] 13.11 Label values](#).



## Acknowledgments

`clonevar` was written by Nicholas J. Cox of the Department of Geography at Durham University, UK, who is coeditor of the *Stata Journal* and author of *Speaking Stata Graphics*. He in turn thanks Michael Blasnik of Nest Labs and Ken Higbee of StataCorp for very helpful comments on a precursor of this command.

## Also see

[D] [generate](#) — Create or change contents of variable

[D] [separate](#) — Create separate variables

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