

**obs** — Increase the number of observations in a dataset

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## Description

`set obs` changes the number of observations in the current dataset. `#` must be at least as large as the current number of observations. If there are variables in memory, the values of all new observations are set to missing.

## Quick start

Add 100 observations with no observations currently in memory

```
set obs 100
```

Add 100 observations with 100 observations currently in memory

```
set obs 200
```

## Syntax

```
set obs #
```

## Remarks and examples

stata.com

### ▷ Example 1

`set obs` can be useful for creating artificial datasets. For instance, if we wanted to graph the function  $y = x^2$  over the range 1–100, we could type

```
. drop _all
. set obs 100
Number of observations (_N) was 0, now 100.
. generate x = _n
. generate y = x^2
. scatter y x
(graph not shown)
```

◀

### ▷ Example 2

If we want to add an extra data point in a program, we could type

```
. local np1 = _N + 1
. set obs 'np1'
Number of observations (_N) was 0, now 1.
```

or

```
. set obs '=_N + 1'
```

◀

### Also see

[D] **describe** — Describe data in memory or in file

[D] **insobs** — Add or insert observations