**Description**

order relocates varlist to a position depending on which option you specify. If no option is specified, order relocates varlist to the beginning of the dataset in the order in which the variables are specified.

**Quick start**

Move v1 to the beginning of the dataset

```
order v1
```

As above, but instead move v1 to the end of the dataset

```
order v1, last
```

Move v3 before v2

```
order v3, before(v2)
```

Move x and z after y

```
order x z, after(y)
```

Alphabetize y, x, and z, and move them to the beginning of the dataset

```
order y x z, alphabetic
```

Alphabetize x, y, z, v3, v2, and v1, and sort numbers in sequential order

```
order x y z v*, sequential
```

**Menu**

Data > Data utilities > Change order of variables
2 order — Reorder variables in dataset

Syntax

```bash
order varlist [, options]
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>options</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>first</td>
<td>move <code>varlist</code> to beginning of dataset; the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>last</td>
<td>move <code>varlist</code> to end of dataset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before(\texttt{varname})</td>
<td>move <code>varlist</code> before <code>\texttt{varname}</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after(\texttt{varname})</td>
<td>move <code>varlist</code> after <code>\texttt{varname}</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alphabetic</td>
<td>alphabetize <code>varlist</code> and move it to beginning of dataset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sequential</td>
<td>alphabetize <code>varlist</code> keeping numbers sequential and move it to beginning of dataset</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Options

- `first` shifts `varlist` to the beginning of the dataset. This is the default.
- `last` shifts `varlist` to the end of the dataset.
- `before(\texttt{varname})` shifts `varlist` before `\texttt{varname}`.
- `after(\texttt{varname})` shifts `varlist` after `\texttt{varname}`.
- `alphabetic` alphabetizes `varlist` and moves it to the beginning of the dataset. For example, here is a `varlist` in alphabetic order: `a x7 x70 x8 x80 z`. If combined with another option, alphabetic just alphabetizes `varlist`, and the movement of `varlist` is controlled by the other option.
- `sequential` alphabetizes `varlist`, keeping variables with the same ordered letters but with differing appended numbers in sequential order. `varlist` is moved to the beginning of the dataset. For example, here is a `varlist` in sequential order: `a x7 x8 x70 x80 z`.

Remarks and examples

Example 1

When using `order`, you must specify a `varlist`, but you do not need to specify all the variables in the dataset. For example, we want to move the `make` and `mpg` variables to the front of the `auto` dataset.
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/auto4
    (1978 Automobile Data)
. describe
    obs: 74  1978 Automobile Data
    vars: 6  6 Apr 2016 00:20
    size: 2,072
    storage  display  value
variable name  type   format  label                variable label
  price        int    %8.0gc Price
  weight       int    %8.0gc Weight (lbs.)
  mpg          int    %8.0g Mileage (mpg)
  make         str18  %-18s Make and Model
  length       int    %8.0g Length (in.)
  rep78        int    %8.0g Repair Record 1978

Sorted by:
. order make mpg
. describe
    obs: 74  1978 Automobile Data
    vars: 6  6 Apr 2016 00:20
    size: 2,072
    storage  display  value
variable name  type   format  label                variable label
  make        str18  %-18s Make and Model
  mpg         int    %8.0g Mileage (mpg)
  price       int    %8.0gc Price
  weight      int    %8.0gc Weight (lbs.)
  length      int    %8.0g Length (in.)
  rep78       int    %8.0g Repair Record 1978

Sorted by:

We now want length to be the last variable in our dataset, so we could type order make mpg
price weight rep78 length, but it would be easier to use the last option:

. order length, last
. describe
    obs: 74  1978 Automobile Data
    vars: 6  6 Apr 2016 00:20
    size: 2,072
    storage  display  value
variable name  type   format  label                variable label
  make        str18  %-18s Make and Model
  mpg         int    %8.0g Mileage (mpg)
  price       int    %8.0gc Price
  weight      int    %8.0gc Weight (lbs.)
  rep78       int    %8.0g Repair Record 1978
  length      int    %8.0g Length (in.)

Sorted by:

We now change our mind and decide that we prefer that the variables be alphabetized.
. order _all, alphabetic
. describe
obs: 74 1978 Automobile Data
vars: 6 6 Apr 2016 00:20
size: 2,072

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>variable name</th>
<th>storage</th>
<th>type</th>
<th>display</th>
<th>format</th>
<th>label</th>
<th>variable label</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>length</td>
<td>int</td>
<td>%8.0g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Length (in.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make</td>
<td>str18</td>
<td>%-18s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Make and Model</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mpg</td>
<td>int</td>
<td>%8.0g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mileage (mpg)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>price</td>
<td>int</td>
<td>%8.0gc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Price</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rep78</td>
<td>int</td>
<td>%8.0g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Repair Record 1978</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weight</td>
<td>int</td>
<td>%8.0gc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Weight (lbs.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sorted by:

Technical note

If your data contain variables named year1, year2, ..., year19, year20, specify the sequential option to obtain this ordering. If you specify the alphabetic option, year10 will appear between year1 and year11.

References


Also see

[D] describe — Describe data in memory or in file
[D] ds — List variables matching name patterns or other characteristics
[D] edit — Browse or edit data with Data Editor
[D] rename — Rename variable