rename — Rename variable

Description

rename changes the name of an existing variable *old_varname* to *new_varname*; the contents of the variable are unchanged. Also see [D] **rename group** for renaming groups of variables.

Quick start

Change the name of v1 to var1

```
rename v1 var1
```

Also change the name of v2 to var2

```
rename v2 var2
```

Menu

Data > Data utilities > Rename groups of variables

Syntax

rename *old_varname new_varname*

collect is allowed; see **[U] 11.1.10 Prefix commands**.

Remarks and examples

▷ Example 1

rename allows you to change variable names. Say that we have labor market data for siblings.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/renamexmpl

. describe

Contains data from https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/renamexmpl.dta
 Observations:           277
    Variables:             6                      9 Jan 2024 11:57
─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────
Variable       Storage   Display    Value
    name          type    format    label      Variable label
─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────
famid          float     %9.0g
edu            float     %9.0g
exp            float     %9.0g
promo          float     %9.0g
sex            float     %9.0g      sex
inc            float     %9.0g
─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────

Sorted by: famid
```

We decide to rename the exp and inc variables.

```
. rename exp experience

. rename inc income

. describe
Contains data from https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/renamexmpl.dta
 Observations:           277
    Variables:             6                      9 Jan 2024 11:57

    Variable       Storage   Display    Value
        name          type    format    label      Variable label

    famid            float    %9.0g
    edu              float    %9.0g
    experience       float    %9.0g
    promo            float    %9.0g
    sex              float    %9.0g      sex
    income           float    %9.0g

Sorted by: famid
      Note: Dataset has changed since last saved.
```

The exp variable is now called experience, and the inc variable is now called income.

◁

Also see

[D] **rename group** — Rename groups of variables

[D] **generate** — Create or change contents of variable

[D] **varmanage** — Manage variable labels, formats, and other properties