

rename — Rename variable

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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
```

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Syntax

```
rename old_varname new_varname
```

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/r16/renamexmpl
. describe
```

Contains data from https://www.stata-press.com/data/r16/renamexmpl.dta

```
obs:          277
vars:          6                9 Jan 2018 11:57
```

variable name	storage type	display format	value 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/r16/renamexmpl.dta>

```
obs:      277
vars:      6                      9 Jan 2018 11:57
```

variable name	storage type	display format	value 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`.

◀

References

- Cox, N. J., and J. Weesie. 2001. [dm88: Renaming variables, multiply and systematically](#). *Stata Technical Bulletin* 60: 4–6. Reprinted in *Stata Technical Bulletin Reprints*, vol. 10, pp. 41–44. College Station, TX: Stata Press.
- . 2005. [Software Updates: Renaming variables, multiply and systematically](#). *Stata Journal* 5: 607.
- Jenkins, S. P., and N. J. Cox. 2001. [dm83: Renaming variables: Changing suffixes](#). *Stata Technical Bulletin* 59: 5–6. Reprinted in *Stata Technical Bulletin Reprints*, vol. 10, pp. 34–35. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

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