

**type** — Display contents of a file

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## Description

`type` lists the contents of a file stored on disk. This command is similar to the Windows `type` command and the Unix `more(1)` or `pg(1)` commands.

In Stata for Mac and Stata for Unix, `cat` is a synonym for `type`.

On all platforms, Stata understands a leading “~” as an abbreviation for the home directory.

## Quick start

Display contents of `myfile.txt` in the Results window

```
type myfile.txt
```

As above, but display `myfile.txt` saved in `~\mydir\mysubdir` using Stata for Windows

```
type ~\mydir\mysubdir\myfile.txt
```

As above, but using Stata for Mac or Unix

```
type ~/mydir/mysubdir/myfile.txt
```

Display contents of `my file.txt`

```
type "my file.txt"
```

Display the first 20 lines of `myfile.txt`

```
type myfile.txt, lines(20)
```

## Syntax

```
type ["filename"] [ , options ]
```

Note: Double quotes must be used to enclose *filename* if the name contains blanks.

<i>options</i>	Description
<code>asis</code>	show file as is; default is to display files with suffix <code>.smcl</code> or <code>.sthlp</code> as SMCL
<code>smcl</code>	display file as SMCL; default for files with suffix <code>.smcl</code> or <code>.sthlp</code>
<code>showtabs</code>	display tabs as <T> rather than being expanded
<code>starbang</code>	list lines in the file that begin with “*!”
<code>lines(#)</code>	list first # lines

## Options

**asis** specifies that the file be shown exactly as it is. The default is to display files with the suffix `.smcl` or `.sthlp` as SMCL, meaning that the SMCL directives are interpreted and properly rendered. Thus **type** can be used to look at files created by the `log using` command.

**smcl** specifies that the file be displayed as SMCL, meaning that the SMCL directives are interpreted and properly rendered. This is the default for files with the suffix `.smcl` or `.sthlp`.

**showtabs** requests that any tabs be displayed as `<T>` rather than being expanded.

**starbang** lists only the lines in the specified file that begin with the characters “\*!”. Such comment lines are typically used to indicate the version number of ado-files, class files, etc. **starbang** may not be used with SMCL files.

**lines(#)** lists the first # lines of a file. **lines()** is ignored if the file is displayed as SMCL or if # is less than or equal to 0.

## Remarks and examples

[stata.com](http://www.stata.com)

### ► Example 1

We have raw data containing the level of Lake Victoria Nyanza and the number of sunspots during the years 1902–1921 stored in a file called `sunspots.raw`. We want to read this dataset into Stata by using `infile`, but we cannot remember the order in which we entered the variables. We can find out by using the `type` command:

```
. type sunspots.raw
1902 -10 5 1903 13 24 1904 18 42
1905 15 63 1906 29 54 1907 21 62
1908 10 49 1909 8 44 1910 1 19
1911 -7 6 1912 -11 4 1913 -3 1
1914 -2 10 1915 4 47 1916 15 57
1917 35 104 1918 27 81 1919 8 64
1920 3 38 1921 -5 25
```

Looking at this output, we now remember that the variables are entered year, level, and number of sunspots. We can read this dataset by typing `infile year level spots using sunspots`.

If we wanted to see the tabs in `sunspots.raw`, we could type

```
. type sunspots.raw, showtabs
1902 -10 5<T>1903 13 24<T>1904 18 42
1905 15 63<T>1906 29 54<T>1907 21 62
1908 10 49<T>1909 8 44<T>1910 1 19
1911 -7 6<T>1912 -11 4<T>1913 -3 1
1914 -2 10<T>1915 4 47<T>1916 15 57
1917 35 104<T>1918 27 81<T>1919 8 64
1920 3 38<T>1921 -5 25
```

## ▷ Example 2

In a previous Stata session, we typed `log using myres` and created `myres.smcl`, containing our results. We can use `type` to list the log:

```
. type myres.smcl
```

---

```

      name: <unnamed>
      log:  /work/peb/dof/myres.smcl
    log type: smcl
  opened on: 20 Jan 2021, 15:37:48
. use lbw
(Hosmer & Lemeshow data)
. logistic low age lwt i.race smoke ptl ht ui
Logistic regression
Log likelihood =   -100.724
  (output omitted)
      Number of obs   =          189
      LR chi2(8)     =          33.22
      Prob > chi2    =          0.0001
      Pseudo R2     =          0.1416
. estat gof
Logistic model for low, goodness-of-fit test
  (output omitted)
. log close
      name: <unnamed>
      log:  /work/peb/dof/myres.smcl
    log type: smcl
  closed on: 20 Jan 2021, 15:38:30
```

---

We could also use `view` to look at the log; see [\[R\] view](#).

◀

## Also see

- [D] [cd](#) — Change directory
- [D] [copy](#) — Copy file from disk or URL
- [D] [dir](#) — Display filenames
- [D] [erase](#) — Erase a disk file
- [D] [mkdir](#) — Create directory
- [D] [rmdir](#) — Remove directory
- [D] [shell](#) — Temporarily invoke operating system
- [P] [viewsource](#) — View source code
- [R] [translate](#) — Print and translate logs
- [R] [view](#) — View files and logs
- [U] [11.6 Filenaming conventions](#)