**graph drop** — Drop graphs from memory

### Description

`graph drop name` drops (discards) the specified graphs from memory and closes any associated Graph windows.

`graph drop _all` drops all graphs from memory and closes all associated Graph windows.

### Quick start

- Drop mygraph1 from memory
  
  ```stata```
  ```
  graph drop mygraph1
  ```
  ```

- Drop mygraph2 and mygraph3 from memory
  
  ```stata```
  ```
  graph drop mygraph2 mygraph3
  ```
  ```

- Drop all graphs from memory
  
  ```stata```
  ```
  graph drop _all
  ```
  ```

- Drop all graphs starting with p from memory
  
  ```stata```
  ```
  graph drop p*
  ```
  ```

- As above, but also drop mygraph3 from memory
  
  ```stata```
  ```
  graph drop p* mygraph3
  ```
  ```

### Menu

- Graphics > Manage graphs > Drop graphs

### Syntax

- Drop named graphs from memory
  
  ```stata```
  ```
  graph drop name [ name ... ]
  ```
  ```

- Drop all graphs from memory
  
  ```stata```
  ```
  graph drop _all
  ```
  ```

`name` is the name of a graph currently in memory or the partial name of a graph in memory with the `?` and `*` wildcard characters.
Remarks and examples

See [G-2] graph manipulation for an introduction to the graph manipulation commands.

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

- Typical use
- Relationship between graph drop _all and discard
- Erasing graphs on disk

Typical use

Graphs contain the data they display, so when datasets are large, graphs can consume much memory. `graph drop` frees that memory. `Graph` is the name of a graph when you do not specify otherwise.

```
. graph twoway scatter faminc educ, ms(p)
... 
. graph drop Graph
```

We often use graphs in memory to prepare the pieces for `graph combine`:

```
. graph ..., ... name(p1)
. graph ..., ... name(p2)
. graph ..., ... name(p3)
. graph combine p1 p2 p3, ... saving(result, replace)
. graph drop _all
```

Relationship between graph drop _all and discard

The `discard` command performs `graph drop _all` and more:

1. `discard` eliminates prior estimation results and automatically loaded programs and thereby frees even more memory.
2. `discard` closes any open dialog boxes and thereby frees even more memory.

We nearly always type `discard` in preference to `graph drop _all` if only because `discard` has fewer characters. The exception to that is when we have fit a model and still plan on redisplaying prior results, performing tests on that model, or referring to `b[]`, `se[]`, etc.

See [P] discard for a description of the `discard` command.

Erasing graphs on disk

`graph drop` is not used to erase `.gph` files; instead, use Stata’s standard `erase` command:

```
. erase matfile.gph
```

Also see

- [G-2] graph close — Close Graph windows
- [G-2] graph manipulation — Graph manipulation commands
- [D] erase — Erase a disk file
- [P] discard — Drop automatically loaded programs