

reswords — Reserved words

[Description](#)
 [Syntax](#)
 [Remarks and examples](#)
 [Also see](#)

Description

Reserved words are words reserved by the Mata compiler; they may not be used to name either variables or functions.

Syntax

Reserved words are

aggregate	float	pointer	union
array	for	polymorphic	unsigned
	friend	pragma	using
boolean	function	private	
break		protected	vector
byte	global	public	version
	goto		virtual
case		quad	void
catch	if		volatile
class	inline	real	
colvector	int	return	while
complex		rowvector	
const	local		
continue	long	scalar	
		short	
default	mata	signed	
delegate	matrix	static	
delete		string	
do	namespace	strL	
double	new	struct	
	NULL	super	
else	numeric	switch	
eltypedef			
end	operator	template	
enum	orgtypedef	this	
explicit		throw	
export		transmorphic	
external		try	
		typedef	
		typename	

Remarks and examples

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

Future developments
Version control

Future developments

Many of the words above are reserved for the future implementation of new features. For instance, the words `aggregate`, `array`, `boolean`, `byte`, etc., currently play no role in Mata, but they are reserved.

You cannot infer much about short-run development plans from the presence or absence of a word from the list. The list was constructed by including words that would be needed to add certain features, but we have erred on the side of reserving too many words because it is better to give back a word than to take it away later. Taking away a word can cause previously written code to break.

Also, features can be added without reserving words if the word will be used only within a specific context. Our original list was much longer, but then we struck from it such context-specific words.

Version control

Even if we should need to reserve new words in the future, you can ensure that you need not modify your programs by engaging in version control; see [\[M-2\] **version**](#).

Also see

[\[M-1\] **naming**](#) — Advice on naming functions and variables

[\[M-2\] **version**](#) — Version control

[\[M-2\] **intro**](#) — Language definition