Title

> **namelists —** Specifying matrix and function names

Description

Namelists appear in syntax diagrams.

Syntax

Many mata commands allow or require a *namelist*, such as

> : mata <u>describe</u> [*namelist*] [, all]

A *namelist* is defined as a list of matrix and/or function names, such as

> alpha beta foo()

The above *namelist* refers to the matrices alpha and beta along with the function named foo().

Function names always end in (), hence

alpha	refers to the matrix named alpha
alpha()	refers to the function of the same name

Names may also be specified using the ∗ and ? wildcard characters:

∗	means zero or more characters go here
?	means exactly one character goes here

hence,

∗	means all matrices
∗()	means all functions
∗ ∗()	means all matrices and all functions
s∗	means all matrices that start with *s*
s∗()	means all functions that start with *s*
∗e	means all matrices that end with *e*
∗e()	means all functions that end with *e*
s∗e	means all matrices that start with *s* and end with *e*
s∗e()	means all functions that start with *s* and end with *e*
s?e	means all matrices that start with *s* and end with *e* and have one character in between
s?e()	means all functions that start with *s* and end with *e* and have one character in between

Remarks and examples stata.com

Some *namelists* allow only matrices, and some allow only functions. Even when only functions are allowed, you must include the () suffix.

Also see

[M-3] **Intro** — Commands for controlling Mata