

**cat()** — Load file into string matrix[Description](#)  
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## Description

`cat(filename)` returns a column vector containing the lines from text file *filename*.

`cat(filename, line1)` returns a column vector containing the lines from text file *filename* starting with line number *line1*.

`cat(filename, line1, line2)` returns a column vector containing the lines from text file *filename* starting with line number *line1* and ending with line number *line2*.

## Syntax

*string colvector* `cat(string scalar filename [ , real scalar line1 [ , real scalar line2 ] ])`

## Remarks and examples

[stata.com](#)

`cat(filename)` removes new-line characters at the end of lines.

## Conformability

`cat(filename, line1, line2):`

<i>filename</i> :	$1 \times 1$	
<i>line1</i> :	$1 \times 1$	(optional)
<i>line2</i> :	$1 \times 1$	(optional)
<i>result</i> :	$r \times 1$ ,	$r \geq 0$

## Diagnostics

`cat(filename)` aborts with error if *filename* does not exist.

`cat()` returns a  $0 \times 1$  result if *filename* contains 0 bytes.

## Also see

[M-4] **IO** — I/O functions