

## Description

`displayas(level)` sets whether and how subsequent output is to be displayed.

## Syntax

```
void displayas(string scalar level)
```

where *level* may be

<i>level</i>	Minimum abbreviation
"result"	"res"
"text"	"txt"
"error"	"err"
"input"	"inp"

## Remarks and examples

If this function is never invoked, then the output level is `result`. Say that Mata was invoked in such a way that all output except error messages is being suppressed (for example, `quietly` was coded in front of the `mata` command or in front of the ado-file that called your Mata function). If output is being suppressed, then Mata output is being suppressed, including any output created by your program. Say that you reach a point in your program where you wish to output an error message. You coded

```
printf("{err:you made a mistake}\n")
```

Even though you coded the `SMCL` directive `{err:}`, the error message will still be suppressed. `SMCL` determines how something is rendered, not whether it is rendered. What you need to code is

```
displayas("err")
printf("{err:you made a mistake}\n")
```

Actually, you could code

```
displayas("err")
printf("you made a mistake\n")
```

because, in addition to setting the output level (telling Stata that all subsequent output is of the specified level), it also sets the current `SMCL` rendering to what is appropriate for that kind of output. Hence, if you coded

```
displayas("err")
printf("{res:you made a mistake}\n")
```

the text you made a mistake would appear in the style of results despite any `quietly`s attempting to suppress output. Coding the above is considered bad style.

## Conformability

`displayas(level)`:  
  *level*:     1 × 1  
  *result*:    *void*

## Diagnostics

`displayas(level)` aborts with error if *level* contains an inappropriate string.

## Also see

[M-5] **display()** — Display text interpreting SMCL

[M-5] **printf()** — Format output

[M-4] **IO** — I/O functions

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