

**st\_local()** — Obtain strings from and put strings into Stata macros

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## Description

`st_local(name)` returns the contents of the specified local macro.

`st_local(name, contents)` sets or resets the contents of the specified local macro. If the macro did not previously exist, a new macro is created. If it did previously exist, the new contents replace the old. To remove a local macro from Mata, type `st_local(name, "")`.

## Syntax

```
string scalar  st_local(string scalar name)
void           st_local(string scalar name, string scalar contents)
```

## Remarks and examples

[stata.com](#)

See [\[M-5\] st\\_global\(\)](#) and [\[M-5\] st\\_rclear\(\)](#).

## Conformability

```
st_local(name):
  name:         1 × 1
  result:       1 × 1
```

```
st_local(name, contents):
  name:         1 × 1
  contents:     1 × 1
  result:       void
```

## Diagnostics

`st_local(name)` returns "" if the name contained in *name* is not defined. `st_local(name)` aborts with error if the name is malformed.

`st_local(name, contents)` aborts with error if the name contained in *name* is malformed.

## Reference

Gould, W. W. 2008. [Mata Matters: Macros](#). *Stata Journal* 8: 401–412.

## Also see

[M-4] [stata](#) — Stata interface functions