

## Description

`tokens(s)` returns the contents of *s*, split into words.

`tokens(s, parsechars)` returns the contents of *s* split into tokens based on *parsechars*.

`tokens(s)` is equivalent to `tokens(s, " ")`.

If you need more advanced parsing, see [\[M-5\] tokenget\(\)](#).

## Syntax

*string rowvector*   `tokens(string scalar s)`

*string rowvector*   `tokens(string scalar s, string scalar parsechars)`

## Remarks and examples

`tokens()` is commonly used to split a string containing a sequence of variable names into a row vector, each element of which contains one variable name:

```
tokens("mpg weight displacement") = ("mpg", "weight", "displacement")
```

Some Stata interface functions require that variable names be specified in this form. This is required, for instance, by `st_varindex()`; see [\[M-5\] st\\_varindex\(\)](#). If you had a string scalar `vars` containing one or more variable names, you could obtain their variable indices by coding

```
indices = st_varindex(tokens(vars))
```

## Conformability

`tokens(s, parsechars)`

<i>s</i> :	$1 \times 1$	
<i>parsechars</i> :	$1 \times 1$	(optional)
<i>result</i> :	$1 \times w$ ,	$w = \text{number of words (tokens) in } s$

## Diagnostics

If *s* contains "", `tokens()` returns `J(1,0,"")`.

If *s* contains double-quoted or compound-double-quoted material, the quotes are stripped and that material is returned as one token. For example,

```
tokens('"this "is an" example"') = ("this", "is an", "example")
```

If *s* contains quoted material and the quotes do not match, results are as if the appropriate number of close quotes were added to the end of *s*. For example,

```
tokens('"this "is an example"') = ("this", "is an example")
```

## Also see

[M-5] **invtokens()** — Concatenate string rowvector into string scalar

[M-5] **tokenget()** — Advanced parsing

[M-5] **ustrword()** — Obtain Unicode word from Unicode string

[M-4] **String** — String manipulation functions

[P] **gettoken** — Low-level parsing

[P] **tokenize** — Divide strings into tokens

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