

Description

`nobreak` temporarily turns off recognition of the *Break* key. It is seldom used. `break` temporarily reestablishes recognition of the *Break* key within a `nobreak` block. It is even more seldom used.

Syntax

```
nobreak stata_command
```

```
break stata_command
```

Typical usage is

```
nobreak {  
    ...  
    capture noisily break ...  
    ...  
}
```

Remarks and examples

Stata commands honor the *Break* key. This honoring is automatic and, for the most part, requires no special code, as long as you follow these guidelines:

1. Obtain names for new variables from `tempvar`; see [\[U\] 18.7.1 Temporary variables](#).
2. Obtain names for other memory aggregates, such as scalars and matrices, from `tempname`; see [\[U\] 18.7.2 Temporary scalars and matrices](#).
3. If you need to temporarily change the user's data, use `preserve` to save it first; see [\[U\] 18.6 Temporarily destroying the data in memory](#).
4. Obtain names for temporary files from `tempfile`; see [\[U\] 18.7.3 Temporary files](#).

If you follow these guidelines, your program will be robust to the user pressing *Break* because Stata itself will be able to put things back as they were.

Still, sometimes a program must commit to executing a group of commands that, if *Break* were honored in the midst of the group, would leave the user's data in an intermediate, undefined state. `nobreak` is for those instances.

► Example 1

You are writing a program and following all the guidelines listed above. In particular, you are using temporary variables. At a point in your program, however, you wish to `list` the first five values of the temporary variable. You would like, temporarily, to give the variable a pretty name, so you temporarily rename it. If the user were to press *Break* during the period, the variable would be renamed; however, Stata would not know to drop it, and it would be left behind in the user's data. You wish to avoid this. In the code fragment below, `'myv'` is the temporary variable:

```
nobreak {
    rename 'myv' Result
    list Result in 1/5
    rename Result 'myv'
}
```

It would not be appropriate to code the fragment as

```
nobreak rename 'myv' Result
nobreak list Result in 1/5
nobreak rename Result 'myv'
```

because the user might press *Break* during the periods between the commands.



Also see

- [P] [capture](#) — Capture return code
- [P] [continue](#) — Break out of loops
- [P] [quietly](#) — Quietly and noisily perform Stata command
- [P] [varabbrev](#) — Control variable abbreviation
- [U] [9 The Break key](#)

