

## Description

The `help` command displays help information about the specified command or topic. `help` launches a new Viewer to display help for the specified command or topic or displays help on the console in Stata for Unix(console). If `help` is not followed by a command or a topic name, Stata displays advice for using the help system and documentation.

## Menu

Help > Stata command...

## Syntax

```
help [ command_or_topic_name ] [ , nonew name(viewername) marker(markername) ]
```

## Options

`nonew` specifies that a new Viewer window not be opened for the help topic if a Viewer window is already open. The default is for a new Viewer window to be opened each time `help` is typed so that multiple help files may be viewed at once. `nonew` causes the help file to be displayed in the topmost open Viewer.

`name(viewername)` specifies that help be displayed in a Viewer window named *viewername*. If the named window already exists, its contents will be replaced. If the named window does not exist, it will be created.

`marker(markername)` specifies that the help file be opened to the position of *markername* within the help file.

## Remarks and examples

To obtain help for any Stata command, type `help command` or select **Help > Stata command...** and fill in *command*.

help is best explained by examples.

To obtain help for ...	type
regress	help regress
postestimation tools for regress	help regress postestimation or help regress post
graph option xlabel()	help graph xlabel()
Stata function strpos()	help strpos()
Mata function optimize()	help mata optimize()

Tips:

- `help` displays advice for using the help system and documentation.
- `help guide` displays a table of contents for basic Stata concepts.
- `help estimation commands` displays an alphabetical listing of all Stata estimation commands.
- `help functions` displays help on Stata functions by category.
- `help mata functions` displays a subject table of contents for Mata's functions.
- `help ts glossary` displays the glossary for the time-series manual, and similarly for the other Stata specialty manuals.

If you type `help topic` and help for *topic* is not found, Stata will automatically perform a search for *topic*.

For instance, try typing `help forecasting`. A forecasting help file is not found, so Stata executes `search forecasting` and displays the results in the Viewer.

See [\[U\] 4 Stata's help and search facilities](#) for a complete description of how to use `help`.

## □ Technical note

When you type `help topic`, Stata first looks along the adopath for *topic*.`sthlp`; see [\[U\] 17.5 Where does Stata look for ado-files?](#)

□

## Video examples

[Quick help in Stata](#)

## Reference

Chen, Y., and Y. Lian. 2024. [Browse and cite Stata manuals easily: The `wwwhelp` command](#). *Stata Journal* 24: 161–168.

## Also see

[R] [net search](#) — Search the internet for installable packages

[R] [search](#) — Search Stata documentation and other resources

[GSM] [4 Getting help](#)

[GSW] [4 Getting help](#)

[GSU] [4 Getting help](#)

[U] [4 Stata's help and search facilities](#)

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