**sem and gsem syntax options — Options affecting interpretation of syntax**

### Description

These options affect some minor issues of how `sem` and `gsem` interpret what you type.

### Syntax

```
sem paths ..., ... syntax_options
```

```
gsem paths ..., ... syntax_options
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><code>syntax_options</code></th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>latent(names)</code></td>
<td>explicitly specify latent variable names</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>nocapslatent</code></td>
<td>do not treat capitalized Names as latent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

where `names` is a space-separated list of the names of the latent variables.

### Options

`latent(names)` specifies that `names` is the full set of names of the latent variables. `sem` and `gsem` ordinarily assume that latent variables have the first letter capitalized and observed variables have the first letter lowercased; see [SEM] `sem and gsem path notation`. When you specify `latent(names)`, `sem` and `gsem` treat the listed variables as the latent variables and all other variables, regardless of capitalization, as observed. `latent()` implies `nocapslatent`.

`nocapslatent` specifies that having the first letter capitalized does not designate a latent variable. This option can be used when fitting models with observed variables only where some observed variables in the dataset have the first letter capitalized.

### Remarks and examples

We recommend using the default naming convention. If your dataset contains variables with the first letter capitalized, it is easy to convert the variables to have lowercase names by typing

```
.rename *, lower
```

See [D] `rename group`.

### Also see

- [SEM] `sem` — Structural equation model estimation command
- [SEM] `gsem` — Generalized structural equation model estimation command
- [SEM] `sem and gsem path notation` — Command syntax for path diagrams