em and gsem syntax options — Options affecting interpretation of syntax
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Description Syntax Options Remarks and examples Also see

## Description

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

### Syntax

sem <i>paths</i> , <i>syntax_options</i>		
gsem paths, syntax_options		
syntax_options	Description	
<u>lat</u> ent( <i>names</i> ) nocapslatent	explicitly specify latent variable names do not treat capitalized <i>Names</i> as latent	

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

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