

In the last section we saw how we can look at certain groups of observations. In this section we will be taking a closer look at individual variables. This is very important because by looking at the values stored in the variables, we start to get an idea of the story that the data is telling us. Studying variables is a complex but fun process. However, it is not the purpose of this course to teach you how to do that. This course is about teaching you how to use Stata. This is why in this section, we will be going over some very useful Stata commands that allow us to summarize the information stored in each variable. The type of variable usually dictates which commands we use. As you recall, some variables in Stata are numeric while others contain text. To complicate matters further, some variables are actually string variables, but they are coded as numeric variables, like the variable `gender`, where an individual can be thought of as being a male or a female while the data is actually coded in Stata as a 1 or a 0. We will start with investigating numeric variables. Just like the last section, we will continue using the cheating dataset, so make sure that you load it into Stata.