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order — Reorder variables in dataset

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# **Syntax**

```
order varlist [, options]
```

options	Description			
first	move varlist to beginning of dataset; the default			
last	move varlist to end of dataset			
<pre>before(varname)</pre>	move varlist before varname			
<pre>after(varname)</pre>	move varlist after varname			
alphabetic	alphabetize varlist and move it to beginning of dataset			
<u>sequential</u>	alphabetize <i>varlist</i> keeping numbers sequential and move it to beginning of dataset			

## Menu

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# **Description**

order relocates *varlist* to a position depending on which option you specify. If no option is specified, order relocates *varlist* to the beginning of the dataset in the order in which the variables are specified.

## **Options**

first shifts varlist to the beginning of the dataset. This is the default.

last shifts *varlist* to the end of the dataset.

before (varname) shifts varlist before varname.

after(varname) shifts varlist after varname.

alphabetic alphabetizes *varlist* and moves it to the beginning of the dataset. For example, here is a varlist in alphabetic order: a x7 x70 x8 x80 z. If combined with another option, alphabetic just alphabetizes *varlist*, and the movement of *varlist* is controlled by the other option.

sequential alphabetizes *varlist*, keeping variables with the same ordered letters but with differing appended numbers in sequential order. *varlist* is moved to the beginning of the dataset. For example, here is a varlist in sequential order: a x7 x8 x70 x80 z.

# Remarks and examples

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## Example 1

When using order, you must specify a varlist, but you do not need to specify all the variables in the dataset. For example, we want to move the make and mpg variables to the front of the auto dataset.

6 Apr 2013 00:20

- . use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/auto4 (1978 Automobile Data)
- . describe

vars:

Contains data from http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/auto4.dta obs: 74 1978 Automobile Data

size: 2,072

variable name	storage type	display format	value label	variable label	
price weight mpg make length rep78	int int int str18 int int	%8.0gc %8.0gc %8.0g %-18s %8.0g %8.0g		Price Weight (lbs.) Mileage (mpg) Make and Model Length (in.) Repair Record 1978	

### Sorted by:

- . order make mpg
- . describe

Contains data from http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/auto4.dta 74 1978 Automobile Data obs: 6 6 Apr 2013 00:20 vars:

2,072 size:

variable name	storage type	display format	value label	variable label	
make	str18	%-18s		Make and Model	
mpg	int	%8.0g		Mileage (mpg)	
price	int	%8.0gc		Price	
weight	int	%8.0gc		Weight (lbs.)	
length	int	%8.0g		Length (in.)	
rep78	int	%8.0g		Repair Record 1978	

Sorted by:

We now want length to be the last variable in our dataset, so we could type order make mpg price weight rep78 length, but it would be easier to use the last option:

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- . order length, last
- . describe

Contains data from http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/auto4.dta
obs: 74 1978 Automobile Data
vars: 6 6 Apr 2013 00:20
size: 2,072

variable name	storage type	display format	value label	variable label
make	str18	%-18s		Make and Model
mpg	int	%8.0g		Mileage (mpg)
price	int	%8.0gc		Price
weight	int	%8.0gc		Weight (lbs.)
rep78	int	%8.0g		Repair Record 1978
length	int	%8.0g		Length (in.)

Sorted by:

We now change our mind and decide that we prefer that the variables be alphabetized.

- . order \_all, alphabetic
- . describe

Contains data from http://www.stata-press.com/data/r13/auto4.dta
obs: 74 1978 Automobile Data
vars: 6 6 Apr 2013 00:20
size: 2,072

variable name	storage type	display format	value label	variable label	
length	int	%8.0g		Length (in.)	
make	str18	%-18s		Make and Model	
mpg	int	%8.0g		Mileage (mpg)	
price	int	%8.0gc		Price	
rep78	int	%8.0g		Repair Record 1978	
weight	int	%8.0gc		Weight (lbs.)	

Sorted by:

#### □ Technical note

If your data contain variables named year1, year2, ..., year19, year20, specify the sequential option to obtain this ordering. If you specify the alphabetic option, year10 will appear between year1 and year11.

## References

Gleason, J. R. 1997. dm51: Defining and recording variable orderings. Stata Technical Bulletin 40: 10–12. Reprinted in Stata Technical Bulletin Reprints, vol. 7, pp. 49–52. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

Weesie, J. 1999. dm74: Changing the order of variables in a dataset. Stata Technical Bulletin 52: 8–9. Reprinted in Stata Technical Bulletin Reprints, vol. 9, pp. 61–62. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

# Also see

- [D] describe Describe data in memory or in file
- [D] ds List variables matching name patterns or other characteristics
- [D] edit Browse or edit data with Data Editor
- [D] rename Rename variable