# Stata Syntax

All Stata commands follow the same pattern:

<command name> [... something ...] [if] [in] [, options]

* Angle brackets - ⟨⟩ - mean that you must put something in  their place. In other words, they are mandatory
* Square brackets - [] - mean that you may put something in  their place. In other words, they are optional

For example, if you want to get summary statistics on the variable x then you type:

summarize x

If you want to summarize the variable x, but only when the variable y is greater than 10:

summarize x if y>10

Another example: if you want to save a dataset:

save dataset\_name.dta

But you also have the option to overwrite the file if it exists:

save dataset\_name.dta, replace