Before I show you how to create permanent SAS datasets using LIBNAME statement, there are a couple of concepts I need to introduce them to you first

SAS dataset names have two-parts:

libref.dataset-name

- The part before the period, *libref* (short for library reference), is **_the name of the library_**, the SAS datasets will be stored in libraries

- The part of the name after the period identifies **_the dataset's name_** that you want to give to the data

Temporary SAS datasets vs. Permanent SAS datasets

Temporary SAS datasets

- A dataset with a name without a period. All the SAS datasets created in my tutorials by far are temporary SAS datasets, which disappear when the current SAS session is closed

- The temporary SAS datasets are stored in a SAS default library called 'WORK', which is created by SAS automatically every time you open a SAS session

For example, if you write a DATA statement like

   data test;

SAS adds it to the default library WORK, so this DATA statement is equivalent to

   data WORK.test;

Permanent SAS datasets

The SAS datasets with library name other than 'WORK', it stays in its library permanently when the current SAS session is closed.

Creating Permanent SAS datasets using LIBNAME Statement

A general form of LIBNAME statement:

LIBNAME Library-Name "Directory";

▶ Starts with the LIBNAME keyword

▶ Followed by the library name (*libref*).

▶ The library name (*libref*) must not be more than 8 characters in length and must be a valid *SAS name*

  Valid SAS names follow a few simple naming rules:

  ❖ Names must be 32 characters or fewer in length.

  ❖ Names must start with a letter or an underscore (_)

  ❖ Names can contain only letters, numbers, or underscores (_)

  ❖ Names can contain upper- and lowercase letters, SAS is insensitive to cases, e.g. 'score' is same as 'Score' to SAS

▶ After the library-name, the directory of the library is written in quotes

▶ If you need to use the permanent SAS datasets in a new SAS session, you just need to include and run the same LIBNAME statement in that new session.