

Creating Variables in an ARRAY Statement

So far, you have learned several ways to reference existing variables in an ARRAY statement. You can also create variables in an ARRAY statement by omitting the array elements from the statement. If you do not reference existing variables, SAS automatically creates new variables for you and assigns default names to them. The default name is the array-name followed by consecutive numbers 1 to the dimension of the array.

General form, ARRAY statement to create new variables:

ARRAY array-name {dimension};

where

- array-name specifies the name of the array.
- dimension describes the number and arrangement of array elements.

Remember, when creating variables in an ARRAY statement, you do not need to specify array elements as long as you specify how many elements will be in the array.

Example: array WgtDiff{5};



Default Variable Names

The default variable names are created by concatenating the array name and the numbers 1, 2, 3, and so on, up to the array dimension.

```
array score_var(3);
```

The new variable names will be score_var1, score_var2, score_var3.

If you prefer, you can specify individual variable names.

```
array score_var(3) score1 score2 score3;
```



Arrays of Character Variables

To create an array of character variables, add a dollar sign (\$) after the array dimension.

```
array firstname{5} $;
```

By default, all character variables that are created in an ARRAY statement are assigned a length of 8. You can assign your own length by specifying the length after the dollar sign.

```
array firstname{5} $ 24;
```

The length that you specify is automatically assigned to all variables that are created by the ARRAY statement.

