

clonevar — Clone existing variable[Description](#)[Remarks and examples](#)[Quick start](#)[Acknowledgments](#)[Menu](#)[Also see](#)[Syntax](#)

Description

`clonevar` generates *newvar* as an exact copy of an existing variable, *varname*, with the same storage type, values, and display format as *varname*. *varname*'s variable label, value labels, notes, and characteristics will also be copied.

Quick start

Copy contents, label, and value label of `v1` to `newv1`

```
clonevar newv1 = v1
```

Copy observations from `v2` to `newv2` where `v2` is less than 30

```
clonevar newv2 = v2 if v2 < 30
```

Copy the first 20 observations of `v3` to `newv3`

```
clonevar newv3 = v3 in f/20
```

Same as above

```
clonevar newv3 = v3 in 1/20
```

Menu

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Syntax

```
clonevar newvar = varname [if] [in]
```

Remarks and examples

stata.com

`clonevar` has various possible uses. Programmers may desire that a temporary variable appear to the user exactly like an existing variable. Interactively, you might want a slightly modified copy of an original variable, so the natural starting point is a clone of the original.

▷ Example 1

We have a dataset containing information on modes of travel. These data contain a variable named `mode` that identifies each observation as a specific mode of travel: air, train, bus, or car.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/travel
(Modes of travel)
. describe mode
```

Variable name	Storage type	Display format	Value label	Variable label
mode	byte	%8.0g	travel	Travel mode alternatives

```
. label list travel
travel:
      1 Air
      2 Train
      3 Bus
      4 Car
```

To create an identical variable identifying only observations that contain air or train, we could use `clonevar` with an `if` qualifier.

```
. clonevar airtrain = mode if mode == 1 | mode == 2
(420 missing values generated)
. describe mode airtrain
```

Variable name	Storage type	Display format	Value label	Variable label
mode	byte	%8.0g	travel	Travel mode alternatives
airtrain	byte	%8.0g	travel	Travel mode alternatives

```
. list mode airtrain in 1/5
```

	mode	airtrain
1.	Air	Air
2.	Train	Train
3.	Bus	.
4.	Car	.
5.	Air	Air

The new `airtrain` variable has the same storage type, display format, value label, and variable label as `mode`. If `mode` had any characteristics or notes attached to it, they would have been applied to the new `airtrain` variable, too. The only differences in the two variables are their names and values for bus and car.



□ Technical note

The `if` qualifier used with the `clonevar` command in example 1 referred to the values of `mode` as 1 and 2. Had we wanted to refer to the values by their associated value labels, we could have typed

```
. clonevar airtrain = mode if mode == "air":travel | mode == "train":travel
```

For more details, see [U] [13.11 Label values](#).



Acknowledgments

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Also see

[D] [generate](#) — Create or change contents of variable

[D] [separate](#) — Create separate variables

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