Title

> **comments** — Add comments to programs

Description

This entry provides a quick reference for how to specify comments in programs. See [U] **16.1.2 Comments and blank lines in do-files** for more details.

Remarks and examples

Comments may be added to programs in three ways:

- begin the line with *;
- begin the comment with //; or
- place the comment between /* and */ delimiters.

Here are examples of each:

```
* a sample analysis job
version 18.0
use census
/* obtain the summary statistics */
tabulate region  // there are 4 regions in this dataset
summarize marriage

* a sample analysis job
version 18.0
use /* obtain the summary statistics */ census
tabulate region
//  there are 4 regions in this dataset
summarize marriage
```

The comment indicator * may be used only at the beginning of a line, but it does have the advantage that it can be used interactively. * indicates that the line is to be ignored. The * comment indicator may not be used within Mata.

The // comment indicator may be used at the beginning or at the end of a line. However, if the // indicator is at the end of a line, it must be preceded by one or more blanks. That is, you cannot type the following:

```
tabulate region// there are 4 regions in this dataset
```

// indicates that the rest of the line is to be ignored.

The /* and */ comment delimiter has the advantage that it may be used in the middle of a line, but it is more cumbersome to type than the other two comment indicators. What appears inside /* */ is ignored.

❑ Technical note

There is a fourth comment indicator, `///`, that instructs Stata to view from `///` to the end of a line as a comment and to join the next line with the current line. For example,

```
args a              /// input parameter for a
     b              /// input parameter for b
     c              //  input parameter for c
```

is equivalent to

```
args a b c
```

`///` is one way to make long lines more readable:

```
replace final_result =                      ///
       sqrt(first_side^2 + second_side^2)  ///
       if type == "rectangle"
```

Another popular method is

```
replace final_result =                      /*
       */ sqrt(first_side^2 + second_side^2)  /*
       */ if type == "rectangle"
```

Like the `//` comment indicator, the `///` indicator must be preceded by one or more blanks.

❑

Also see

[P] **#delimit** — Change delimiter

[U] **16.1.2 Comments and blank lines in do-files**

[U] **18.11.2 Comments and long lines in ado-files**