

order — Reorder variables in dataset

[Description
Options](#)[Quick start
Remarks and examples](#)[Menu
Also see](#)[Syntax](#)

Description

`order` relocates *varlist* to a position depending on which option you specify. If no option is specified, `order` relocates *varlist* to the beginning of the dataset in the order in which the variables are specified.

Quick start

Move `v1` to the beginning of the dataset

```
order v1
```

Same as above, but instead move `v1` to the end of the dataset

```
order v1, last
```

Move `v3` before `v2`

```
order v3, before(v2)
```

Move `x` and `z` after `y`

```
order x z, after(y)
```

Alphabetize `y`, `x`, and `z`, and move them to the beginning of the dataset

```
order y x z, alphabetic
```

Alphabetize `x`, `y`, `z`, `v3`, `v2`, and `v1`, and sort numbers in sequential order

```
order x y z v*, sequential
```

Menu

Data > Data utilities > Change order of variables

Syntax

```
order varlist [, options]
```

<i>options</i>	Description
<code>first</code>	move <i>varlist</i> to beginning of dataset; the default
<code>last</code>	move <i>varlist</i> to end of dataset
<code>before(<i>varname</i>)</code>	move <i>varlist</i> before <i>varname</i>
<code>after(<i>varname</i>)</code>	move <i>varlist</i> after <i>varname</i>
<code>alphabetic</code>	alphabetize <i>varlist</i> and move it to beginning of dataset
<code>sequential</code>	alphabetize <i>varlist</i> keeping numbers sequential and move it to beginning of dataset

Options

`first` shifts *varlist* to the beginning of the dataset. This is the default.

`last` shifts *varlist* to the end of the dataset.

`before(varname)` shifts *varlist* before *varname*.

`after(varname)` shifts *varlist* after *varname*.

`alphabetic` alphabetizes *varlist* and moves it to the beginning of the dataset. For example, here is a varlist in `alphabetic` order: a x7 x70 x8 x80 z. If combined with another option, `alphabetic` just alphabetizes *varlist*, and the movement of *varlist* is controlled by the other option.

`sequential` alphabetizes *varlist*, keeping variables with the same ordered letters but with differing appended numbers in sequential order. *varlist* is moved to the beginning of the dataset. For example, here is a varlist in `sequential` order: a x7 x8 x70 x80 z.

Remarks and examples

[stata.com](https://www.stata.com)

► Example 1

When using `order`, you must specify a *varlist*, but you do not need to specify all the variables in the dataset. For example, we want to move the `make` and `mpg` variables to the front of the `auto` dataset.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/auto4
(1978 automobile data)
```

```
. describe
```

```
Contains data from https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/auto4.dta
Observations:      74                1978 automobile data
Variables:         6                  6 Apr 2022 00:20
```

Variable name	Storage type	Display format	Value label	Variable label
price	int	%8.0gc		Price
weight	int	%8.0gc		Weight (lbs.)
mpg	byte	%8.0g		Mileage (mpg)
make	str17	%-17s		Make and model
length	int	%8.0g		Length (in.)
rep78	byte	%8.0g		Repair record 1978

```
Sorted by:
```

```
. order make mpg
```

```
. describe
```

```
Contains data from https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/auto4.dta
Observations:      74                1978 automobile data
Variables:         6                  6 Apr 2022 00:20
```

Variable name	Storage type	Display format	Value label	Variable label
make	str17	%-17s		Make and model
mpg	byte	%8.0g		Mileage (mpg)
price	int	%8.0gc		Price
weight	int	%8.0gc		Weight (lbs.)
length	int	%8.0g		Length (in.)
rep78	byte	%8.0g		Repair record 1978

```
Sorted by:
```

We now want `length` to be the last variable in our dataset, so we could type `order make mpg price weight rep78 length`, but it would be easier to use the last option:

```
. order length, last
```

```
. describe
```

```
Contains data from https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/auto4.dta
Observations:      74                1978 automobile data
Variables:         6                  6 Apr 2022 00:20
```

Variable name	Storage type	Display format	Value label	Variable label
make	str17	%-17s		Make and model
mpg	byte	%8.0g		Mileage (mpg)
price	int	%8.0gc		Price
weight	int	%8.0gc		Weight (lbs.)
rep78	byte	%8.0g		Repair record 1978
length	int	%8.0g		Length (in.)

```
Sorted by:
```

We now change our mind and decide that we prefer that the variables be alphabetized.

```
. order _all, alphabetic
. describe
```

```
Contains data from https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/auto4.dta
Observations:      74          1978 automobile data
Variables:         6           6 Apr 2022 00:20
```

Variable name	Storage type	Display format	Value label	Variable label
length	int	%8.0g		Length (in.)
make	str17	%-17s		Make and model
mpg	byte	%8.0g		Mileage (mpg)
price	int	%8.0gc		Price
rep78	byte	%8.0g		Repair record 1978
weight	int	%8.0gc		Weight (lbs.)

Sorted by:



□ Technical note

If your data contain variables named `year1`, `year2`, . . . , `year19`, `year20`, specify the `sequential` option to obtain this ordering. If you specify the `alphabetic` option, `year10` will appear between `year1` and `year11`.



Also see

- [D] **describe** — Describe data in memory or in a file
- [D] **ds** — Compactly list variables with specified properties
- [D] **edit** — Browse or edit data with Data Editor
- [D] **rename** — Rename variable

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