

How can I read a data file in Stata that uses commas or tabs as delimiters?

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In order to read a data file in Stata that uses commas or tabs as delimiters, you can use the "import delimited" command. This command allows you to specify the delimiter used in the data file, whether it is a comma, tab, or any other character. This will ensure that the data is properly imported into Stata and can be used for analysis. Additionally, you can also use the "insheet" command to read in a file with delimited data, but it is important to specify the correct delimiter in order to avoid errors. Overall, using these commands allows for efficient and accurate reading of data files with varying delimiters in Stata.

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Consider the file below that contains four variables, make, mpg, weight, and price.

The file looks like what is shown below (the variable names are indeed the first line of data.)

```
make,mpg,weight,price
AMC Concord,22,2930,4099
AMC Pacer,17,3350,4749
AMC Spirit,22,2640,3799
Buick Century,20,3250,4816
Buick Electra,15,4080,7827
```

You can read this kind of file using the insheet command as shown below.

insheet using comma.txt

We can issue the list command to see if the data was read properly.

list

make mpg weight price

1. AMC Concord 22 2930 4099
2. AMC Pacer 17 3350 4749
3. AMC Spirit 22 2640 3799
4. Buick Century 20 3250 4816
5. Buick Electra 15 4080 7827

As you can see, the insheet command was pretty smart. It got the variable names from the first row of the data. It looks at the first row and can get the variable names from the first row. It also examines the file and determines for itself whether the data are separated by commas or by tabs. The exact same command could read the same file but delimited with tabs (you

can try reading
<https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/tab.txt> for
yourself). If you would like more information about
reading data in Stata, see the
Stata
Learning Module on inputting raw data into Stata.

As an aside, you can actually read the raw data file
comma.txt directly
over the internet into Stata, using the following
command:

insheet using
<https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/stat/stata/faq/comma.txt>