

How do you use the INFILE statement in SAS?

Authored by
stats writer

June 23, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do you use the INFILE statement in SAS?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=148045>

The INFILE statement in SAS is used to specify the location and format of an external data file that needs to be imported into the SAS program. It allows the user to read data from various sources such as text, Excel, or database files. The syntax of the INFILE statement includes the name of the file, the data format, and any additional options. This statement is essential for data manipulation and analysis in SAS, as it allows for seamless integration of external data with the SAS program. By correctly using the INFILE statement, users can efficiently import and process large volumes of data, ultimately enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of their analyses.

Use the INFILE Statement in SAS (With Example)

You can use the INFILE statement to import data from a file into a dataset in SAS.

This statement uses the following basic syntax:

```
data my_data;  
infile '/home/u13181/bball_data.txt' dlm=' '  
dsdmissoverfirstobs=2;  
input team $ position $ points assists;  
run;
```

Here's what each line does:

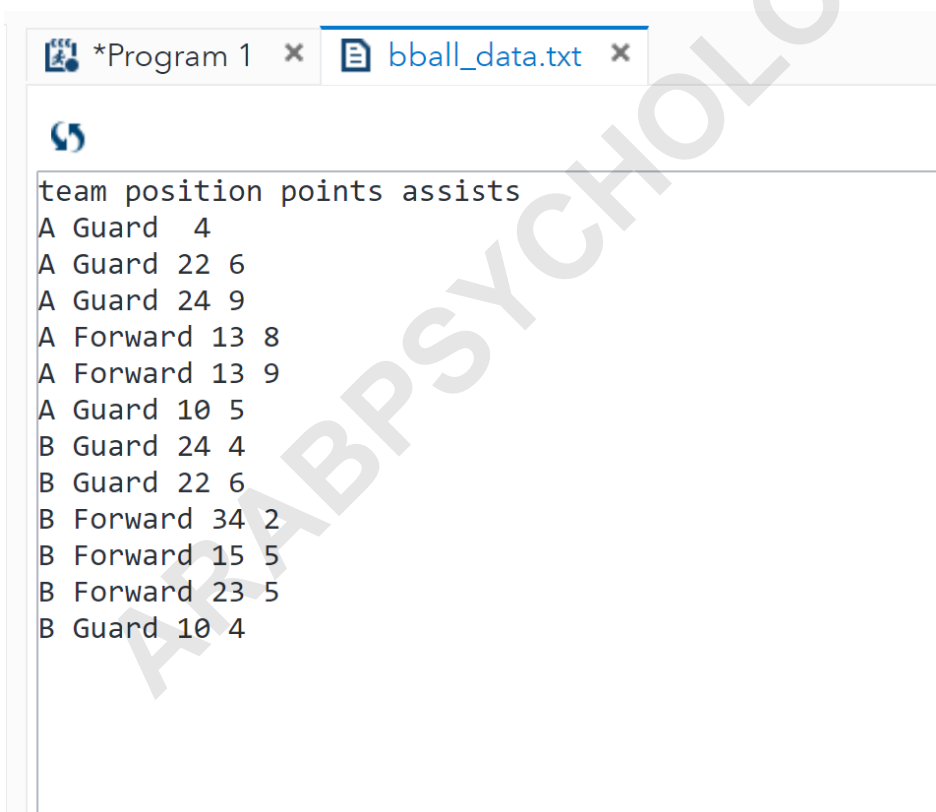
data: Name to give dataset once imported into SAS
infile: Location of file to import
dlm: The delimiter that separates values in the file
dsd: Treat two consecutive delimiters as a missing value
missover: Assume each line in file represents one

observationfirstobs: Which line in file to consider the first line with observations

The following example shows how to use this function in practice.

Example: How to Use INFILE Statement in SAS

Suppose we have the following text file called **bball_data.txt**:



```
*Program 1 x bball_data.txt x
team position points assists
A Guard 4
A Guard 22 6
A Guard 24 9
A Forward 13 8
A Forward 13 9
A Guard 10 5
B Guard 24 4
B Guard 22 6
B Forward 34 2
B Forward 15 5
B Forward 23 5
B Guard 10 4
```

We can use the following code to import this file into a SAS dataset called my_data:

```
/*import data from txt file into SAS dataset*/  
data my_data;  
infile '/home/u13181/bball_data.txt' dlm=' '  
dsdmissoverfirstobs=2;  
input team $ position $ points assists;  
run;  
  
/*view dataset*/  
proc printdata=my_data;
```

Obs	team	position	points	assists
1	A	Guard	.	4
2	A	Guard	22	6
3	A	Guard	24	9
4	A	Forward	13	8
5	A	Forward	13	9
6	A	Guard	10	5
7	B	Guard	24	4
8	B	Guard	22	6
9	B	Forward	34	2
10	B	Forward	15	5
11	B	Forward	23	5
12	B	Guard	10	4

By using the INFILE statement, we were able to successfully import the values from the text file into a dataset.

Notice how we used the following arguments:

infile: Specified where the file was located.
dlim: Specified that the values in the file were separated by spaces.
dsd: Specified that two consecutive delimiters should be treated as a missing value. This came in handy with the missing value in the points column of the first row.
missover: Specified that each line in the file represented one observation.
firstobs: Specified that the first observation was located on the second row of the file.
input: Specified the names to give to the columns in the dataset.

By using each of these arguments, we were able to successfully import the text file into a dataset with the correct format.

How to Import Text Files into SAS