

## 1

## UPDATE

[help about](#); [help update](#); [help updates](#)

The first thing to do in your first Stata session is to `update all` Stata's executables, help files and other features that may not be included in the original version of the software that you purchased. Normally, Stata will ship to new customers the core installation CD together with any other updates. Nonetheless, it is highly recommended to `update` after first installing Stata 10.

**update** First, obtain a report on current version and date of last update.  
**update query** Compare your Stata version with the current update that is available.

Notice the *Recommendation* in the produced output. If this is to `update all`, then make sure to type:

**update all** Ask for a complete update of all ado-files and executable, and wait until it finishes!  
**update swap** After `update all`, you must always `update swap` to install the new executable.

Alternatively, you can go to StataCorp's website and manually download the updates. For more information on how to do that go to [www.Stata.com/support/faqs/web/update2.html](http://www.Stata.com/support/faqs/web/update2.html).

[help news](#); [help whatsnew](#)

**news** Obtain a brief list of recent Stata news, obtained directly from Stata's web site.  
**help whatsnew** See new features that can be downloaded. Make sure to check for updates regularly.

## 2

## LEARN TO ASK FOR HELP AND PERFORM SEARCH

The next thing is to learn how to ask for `help` and perform `search`. These are perhaps the most important commands for a beginner in Stata.

[help help](#)

Stata's Help facility is accessed through the Viewer window. Typing `view` or `help` will invoke the Viewer window. The command `help helpfile` looks for a *helpfile.sthlp* that is stored locally in your machine. Try the following examples:

**help regress** Open help file `regress.sthlp` to obtain advice on how to perform linear regression.  
**help regression** This will not work since there is no file named `regression.sthlp`  
**help mean** Open help file `mean.sthlp` to obtain advice on how to estimate means in Stata.  
**help help\_advice** Obtain advice on how to use the help module.

[help chelp](#)

`chelp` gives the same information as `help` but output is now shown within the Results window. Try again:

**chelp regress** Press the *space-bar* or click on `-more-` to move to the next page.  
**chelp contents** Alternatively, press *enter* to display output one line at a time.

Notice how `chelp` provides hyperlinks that lead to other help files. Clicking on a hyperlink will open that specific help file in the Viewer window.

