

Reading Raw Data with SPSS¹

This document will show a variety of ways of reading raw data.

- * Reading free-field data that is internal to the program .
- * Free-field means that the variables are separated by a space (or comma, if otherwise indicated) so columns do not need to be specified .
- * ID is the name of the first variable - the '*' indicates that the default format should be used.
- * 'fname' is the name of the second variable.
- * (a9) indicates that the variable is a string, and that it has up to 9 characters .
- * 'age' is the name of the second variable.
- * (f3) indicates that it is a numeric variable and that it has up to 3 digits, and none are to the right of the decimal.

```
DATA LIST FREE / ID * fname (A9) AGE (f3) hinch (f3) weight (f3) gender (A) .
BEGIN DATA
1 George 22 72 203 m
2 Frank 67 65 180 m
3 Sally 27 62 120 f
4 Michelle 33 66 145 f
END DATA .
```

The data could also be stored externally to the program. This is how data are usually stored and read.

```
DATA LIST file = 'c:\all\spssclass\progs\prog2.data' FREE
/ ID * fname (A9) AGE (f3) hinch (f3) weight (f3) gender (A) .
variable label
  fname 'First name'
  age 'Age in years'
  hinch 'Height in inches'
  weight 'Weight in pounds' .
```

- * Much more complex data can be read.
- * The following reads a data set from ICPSR.
- * There are 55 lines of data for each case RECORDS = 55
- * /1 tells SPSS to read the 1st line of data.
- * /4 tells SPSS to read the 4th line of data.
- * " /55 ." tells SPSS to skip to the 55th line of data but to read no variables on that line.
- * /54 M482 34-39 (2) tells SPSS to read variable M482 in columns 34-39 on line 54 .
- * and that there are two digits to the right of the decimal point.

```
DATA LIST FILE='c:\DEM1940.DATA' FIXED RECORDS = 55
/1 M001 3-4 M002 5-8 M003 9-12
/2 M011 13-19 M012 20-26 M013 27-33 M014 34-40 M015 41-47
M016 48-54 M017 55-61 M018 62-68 M019 69-75
/4 M029 13-19 M030 20-26 M031 27-33 M032 34-40 M033 41-47
M034 48-54 M035 55-61 M036 62-68 M037 69-75
/54 M482 34-39 (2)
M483 40-45 (2) M484 46-51 (2) M485 52-57 (2)
M486 58-63 (2) M487 64-69 (2) M488 70-75 (2)
/55 .
```

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