

# 13 Using the Do-file Editor—automating Stata

## The Do-file Editor

Stata comes with an integrated text editor called the Do-file Editor, which can be used for many tasks. It gets its name from the term *do-file*, which is a file containing a list of commands for Stata to run (called a batch file or a script in other settings). See [U] 16 Do-files for more information. Although the Do-file Editor has advanced features that can help in writing such files, it can also be used to build up a series of commands that can then be submitted to Stata all at once. This feature can be handy when writing a loop to process multiple variables in a similar fashion or when doing complex, repetitive tasks interactively.

To get the most from this chapter, you should work through it at your computer. Start by opening the Do-file Editor, either by clicking on the **Do-file Editor** button, , or by typing `doedit` in the Command window and pressing *Enter*.

## The Do-file Editor toolbar

The Do-file Editor has 15 buttons. Many of the buttons share a similar purpose with their look-alikes in the main Stata toolbar.



If you ever forget what a button does, hover the mouse pointer over a button, and a tooltip will appear.

-  **New:** Open a new do-file in a new tab in the Do-file Editor.
-  **Open:** Open a do-file from disk in a new tab in the Do-file Editor.
-  **Save:** Save the current file to disk.
-  **Print:** Print the contents of the Do-file Editor.
-  **Find:** Open the *Find* dialog for finding text.
-  **Cut:** Cut the selected text and put it in the Clipboard.
-  **Copy:** Copy the selected text to the Clipboard.
-  **Paste:** Paste the text from the Clipboard into the current document.
-  **Undo:** Undo the last change.