

In addition to files saved in SPSS format, you can open spreadsheet (Excel, Lotus 1-2-3), database (Access, dBASE), tab-delimited files and other types of ASCII text files without converting the files to an intermediate format or entering data definition information.

Steps to opening a text data file

1. Click on Files>Open>Data.
2. To view all files, in the Files of Type drop down menu select the All Files (*.*) option.
3. In the 'Open File' dialog box, select the file you want to open.
4. Click Open.
5. The Text Import Wizard appears.

Text import wizard



In six steps, the text import wizard allows you to define how to read a text data file including tab-delimited, space-delimited, comma-delimited and fixed-field format files. For delimited files, you can also specify other characters as delimiters between values and you can specify multiple delimiters. You will find the detail six-step text import wizard process.

Step 1 - Text import wizard

Text Import Wizard - Step 1 of 6

Welcome to the text import wizard
This wizard will help you read data from your text file and specify information about the variables.

Does your text file match a predefined format?

Yes No

Text file: C:\Lucia\software\SAS\IntroSAS\data\btempht.dat

	SUB_ID	BODYTEMP	BTEMPC	TEMPCAT	GENDER	HRTRATE
1						
2	1	96.3	35.72222222	0	1	70
3	66	96.4	35.77777778	0	2	69
4	2	96.7	35.94444444	0	1	71
5	67	96.7	35.94444444	0	2	62

The text file is displayed in a preview window.

You can apply a predefined format (previously saved from the text wizard) or follow the steps in the Text Wizard to specify how the data should be read.

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Step 2 - Text import wizard

The Text Wizard needs to determine where the data value for one variable ends and the data value for the next variable begins.

Variable Assignment
Delimited - Space, commas, tabs, or other characters are used to separate variables.
Fixed width - Each variables is recorded in the same column location on the same record (line) for each case in the data file. No delimiter is required between variables.

	SUB_ID	BODYTEMP	BTEMPC	TEMPCAT	GENDER	HRTRATE
1	1	96.3	35.72222222	0	1	70
2	66	96.4	35.77777778	0	2	69
3	2	96.7	35.94444444	0	1	71

If the first row of the data file contains descriptive labels for each variable, you can use these labels as variable names.

Step 3 – Text import wizard (Delimited Files)

Response indicates if the first row of the data file contains descriptive labels for each variable.

	SUB_ID	BODYTEMP	BTEMPC	TEMPCAT	GENDER	HRTRATE
1	1	96.3	35.72222222	0	1	70
2	66	96.4	35.77777778	0	2	69
3	2	96.7	35.94444444	0	1	71

Controls how the Text Wizard determines where each case ends and the next one begins.

You can import all cases in the data file, first n cases, or a random sample of a specified percentage.

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Step 4 – Text import wizard (Delimited Files)

Characters or symbols used to separate data values.

Characters used to enclose values that contain delimiter characters.

SUB_ID	BODYTEMP	BTEMPC	TEMPCAT	GENDER	HRTRATE
1	96.3	35.72222222	0	1	70
66	96.4	35.77777778	0	2	69
2	96.7	35.94444444	0	1	71
67	96.7	35.94444444	0	2	62
68	96.8	36	0	2	75
3	96.9	36.05555556	0	1	74
4	97	36.11111111	1	1	80
5	97.1	36.16666667	1	1	73
6	97.1	36.16666667	1	1	75

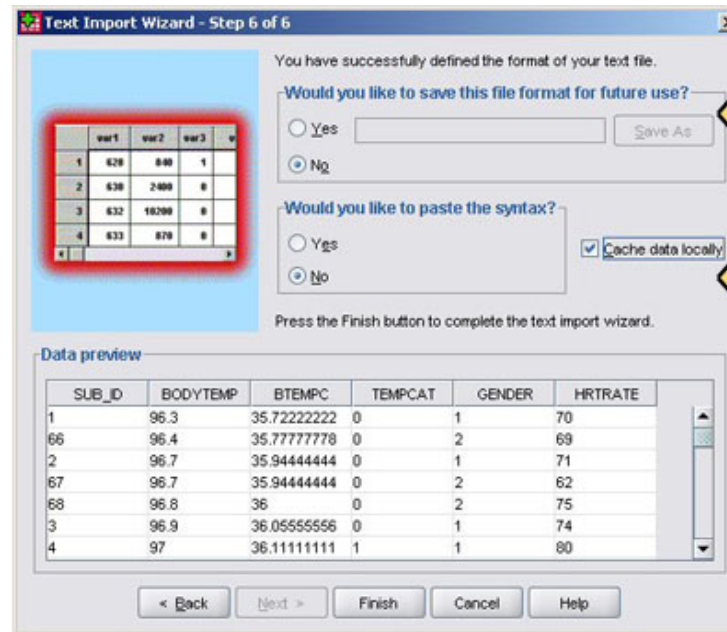
Step 4 – Text import wizard (Delimited Files)

By clicking on the variable name in the Data preview window, you can change the variable name and data format

SUB_ID	BODYTEMP	BTEMPC	TEMPCAT	GENDER	HRTRATE
1	96.3	35.72222222	0	1	70
66	96.4	35.77777778	0	2	69
2	96.7	35.94444444	0	1	71
67	96.7	35.94444444	0	2	62
68	96.8	36	0	2	75
3	96.9	36.05555556	0	1	74

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Step 6 – Text import wizard



You can save your specifications in a file for use when importing similar text data files.

You can also paste the syntax generate by the Text Wizard into a syntax window.

Need Additional Help?

If you require additional assistance with using SPSS please feel free to contact the Data Resource Centre located on the first floor of the library behind the reference. You can either drop-in, phone x56417 or email drc@listserv.uoguelph.ca.