

URL: http://cxc.harvard.edu/sherpa3.4/faq/casesens\_commands.html Last modified: 21 September 2006

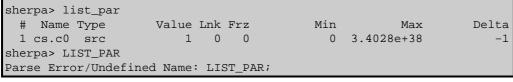
## Why are some *Sherpa* commands case-sensitive, while others aren't?

Commands entered at the *Sherpa* prompt fall into three categories: "pure" *Sherpa* commands (i.e. commands handled directly by the *Sherpa* parser); *ChIPS* commands, which are passed to the *ChIPS* parser; and <u>S-Lang</u> statements, which are handled by the S-Lang interpreter.

The *Sherpa* and *ChIPS* parsers handle commands in a case–insensitive fashion. For example, the <u>SHOW</u> command is processed directly by the *Sherpa* parser, so you can enter it in any case:

sherpa> show statistic
Statistic: Chi-Squared Gehrels
sherpa> SHOW statistic
Statistic: Chi-Squared Gehrels
sherpa> sHoW statistic
Statistic: Chi-Squared Gehrels

On the other hand, the names of S-Lang functions and variables *are* case-sensitive, and changing their capitalization will generate a Parse Error/Undefined Name message. For example, <u>list par</u> is a S-Lang function defined in the <u>Sherpa S-Lang module</u>, and its name must be entered in lower case:



Although S–Lang names can contain both upper and lower–case letters, the names of all functions and variables in the *Sherpa* module are strictly lower–case. Hence, if you are uncertain whether a command is actually a S–Lang function, typing it in lower–case is the safest approach.

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