

URL: http://cxc.harvard.edu/sherpa3.4/faq/casesens commands.html

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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 SHOW 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, list par is a S-Lang function defined in the *Sherpa* S-Lang module, and its name must be entered in lower case:

sherpa> list_par						
# Name Type	Value	Lnk	Frz	Min	Max	Delta
1 cs.c0 src	1	0	0	0	3.4028e+38	-1
sherpa> LIST_PAR						
Parse Error/Undefined Name: LIST_PAR;						

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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