



How to prevent conversion of text variables into numeric variables when importing CSV files

Problem

When importing a CSV file, Q automatically converts a text variable into a numeric variable. (This occurs when the variable contains a lot of numbers and Q assumes that any non-numerals are formatting, such as commas and dollar signs). For example, the first three lines of a variable in the CSV file may be:

0
1,4
0

But, when imported into Q, it may appear as:

0
14
0

Steps to solve

1. Modify the first *two* lines of each of the problem variables to include the prefix of `Text,` (note the comma). For example:

TEXT,0
TEXT,1,4
0

2. Save the file and import it again into Q. The problem should be resolved.

Additional reading

Terms shown in italics and bold can be found in the index of the *Q Reference Manual*, the *Quick Start Manual* and via the **Help** menu within Q.

What to do if the problem is not solved

If these instructions are insufficient, please email us (**Help | Email Support...**) with a detailed description of what in the instructions is not working for you and we will either provide you with more comprehensive instructions, or, upon your request, we can do the analysis for you in your file (fees apply) .