

<sup>secondprinting</sup>  
`\read⟨number⟩ to ⟨control sequence⟩`

This command tells T<sub>E</sub>X to read a line from the file associated with the input stream designated by *⟨number⟩* and assign the tokens on that line to *⟨control sequence⟩*. The control sequence then becomes a parameterless macro. No macro expansion takes place during the reading operation. If the line contains any unmatched left braces, T<sub>E</sub>X will read additional lines until the braces are all matched. If T<sub>E</sub>X reaches the end of the file without matching all the braces, it will complain.

If *⟨number⟩* is greater than 15 or hasn't been associated with a file using `\openin`, T<sub>E</sub>X prompts you with '*⟨control sequence⟩ =*' on your terminal and waits for you to type a line of input. It then assigns the input line to *⟨control sequence⟩*. If *⟨number⟩* is less than zero, it reads a line of input from your terminal but omits the prompt.

*Example:*

```
\read\auxfile to \holder
% Expanding \holder will produce the line just read.
```