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`\the` ⟨*token*⟩

This command generally expands to a list of character tokens that represents ⟨*token*⟩. ⟨*token*⟩ can be any of the following:

- a TEX parameter, e.g., `\parindent` or `\deadcycles`
- a register, e.g., `\count0`
- a code associated with an input character, e.g., `\catcode‘(`
- a font parameter, e.g., `\fontdimen3\sevenbf`
- the `\hyphenchar` or `\skewchar` of a font, e.g., `\skewchar\teni`
- `\lastpenalty`, `\lastskip`, or `\lastkern` (values derived from the last item on the current horizontal or vertical list)
- a control sequence defined by `\chardef` or `\mathchardef`

In addition, `\the` can expand to noncharacter tokens in the following two cases:

- `\the` ⟨*font*⟩, which expands to the most recently defined control sequence that selects the same font as the control sequence ⟨*font*⟩
- `\the` ⟨*token variable*⟩, which expands to a copy of the value of the variable, e.g., `\the\everypar`

See pages 214–215 of *The TEXbook* for a more detailed description of what `\the` does in various cases.

Example:
```
The vertical size is currently \the\vsize.
The category code of ‘(’ is \the\catcode ‘(.
```
produces:

The vertical size is currently 548.4975pt. The category code of ‘(’ is 12.