

`\ifx` $\langle token_1 \rangle$ $\langle token_2 \rangle$

This command tests if $\langle token_1 \rangle$ and $\langle token_2 \rangle$ agree. Unlike `\if` and `\ifcat`, `\ifx` does *not* expand the tokens following `\ifx`, so $\langle token_1 \rangle$ and $\langle token_2 \rangle$ are the two tokens immediately after `\ifx`. There are three cases:

- 1) If one token is a macro and the other one isn't, the tokens don't agree.
- 2) If neither token is a macro, the tokens agree if:
 - a) both tokens are characters (or control sequences denoting characters) and their character codes and category codes agree, or
 - b) both tokens refer to the same T_EX command, font, etc.
- 3) If both tokens are macros, the tokens agree if:
 - a) their “first level” expansions, i.e., their replacement texts, are identical, and
 - b) they have the same status with respect to `\long` (p. ‘`\long`’) and `\outer` (p. ‘`\outer`’).

Note in particular that *any two undefined control sequences agree*.

This test is generally more useful than `\if`.

Example:

```
\ifx\alice\rabbit true\else false\fi;
% true since neither \rabbit nor \alice is defined
\def\aa{a}%
\ifx a\aa true\else false\fi;
% false since one token is a macro and the other isn't
\def\first{\a}\def\second{\aa}\def\aa{a}%
\ifx \first\second true\else false\fi;
% false since top level expansions aren't the same
\def\third#1:{(#1)}\def\fourth#1?{(#1)}%
\ifx\third\fourth true\else false\fi
% false since parameter texts differ
```

produces:

```
true; false; false; false
```