

`\if` $\langle token_1 \rangle$ $\langle token_2 \rangle$

This command tests if $\langle token_1 \rangle$ and $\langle token_2 \rangle$ have the same character code, independent of their category codes. Before performing the test, T_EX expands tokens following the `\if` until it obtains two tokens that can't be expanded further. These two tokens become $\langle token_1 \rangle$ and $\langle token_2 \rangle$. The expansion includes replacing a control sequence `\let` equal to a character token by that character token. A control sequence that can't be further expanded is considered to have character code 256.

Example:

```
\def\first{abc}
\if\first true\else false\fi;
% ‘c’ is left over from the expansion of \first.
% It lands in the unexecuted ‘true’ part.
\if a\first\ true\else false\fi;
% Here ‘bc’ is left over from the expansion of \first
\if \hbox\relax true\else false\fi
% Unexpandable control sequences test equal with ‘if’
```

produces:

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