`conditional test.`   A *conditional test* is a command that tests whether or not a certain condition is true and causes TEX either to expand or to skip some text, depending on the outcome. The general form of a conditional test is either:

> `\if`α⟨*true text*⟩`\else`⟨*false text*⟩`\fi`

or:

> `\if`α⟨*true text*⟩`\fi`

where α specifies the particular test. For example, `\ifvmode` tests the condition that TEX is currently in a vertical mode. If the condition is true, TEX expands ⟨*true text*⟩. If the condition is false, TEX expands ⟨*false text*⟩ (if it's present). Conditional tests are interpreted in TEX's gullet (see "anatomy of TEX", p. '`\anatomy`'), so any expandable tokens in the interpreted text are expanded after the test has been resolved. The various conditional tests are explained in "Conditional tests" (p. '`conds`').