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\expandafter  $\langle token_1 \rangle \langle token_2 \rangle$ 

This command tells TEX to expand  $\langle token_1 \rangle$  according to its rules for macro expansion *after* it has expanded  $\langle token_2 \rangle$  by one level. It's useful when  $\langle token_1 \rangle$  is something like '{' or \string that inhibits expansion of  $\langle token_2 \rangle$ , but you want to expand  $\langle token_2 \rangle$  nevertheless.

Example:

\def\aa{xyz}
\tt % Use this font so '\' prints that way.
[\string\aa] [\expandafter\string\aa]
[\expandafter\string\csname TeX\endcsname]
produces:
[\aa] [xyz] [\TeX]