

`\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<sub>E</sub>X 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\afa{%
\ifx a\a 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
```