

conditional test

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

```
\if $\alpha$ (true text)\else(false text)\fi
```

or:

```
\if $\alpha$ (true text)\fi
```

where α specifies the particular test. For example, `\ifvmode` tests the condition that T_EX is currently in a vertical mode. If the condition is true, T_EX expands *<true text>*. If the condition is false, T_EX expands *<false text>* (if it's present). Conditional tests are interpreted in T_EX's gullet (see "anatomy of T_EX", 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').