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\newif \if $\langle test \ name \rangle$

This command names a trio of control sequences with names \alphatrue, \alphafalse, and \ifalpha, where alpha is $\langle test\ name \rangle$. You can use them to define your own tests by creating a logical variable that records true/false information:

- \alphatrue sets the logical variable alpha true.
- \alphafalse sets the logical variable alpha false
- \ifalpha is a conditional test that is true if the logical variable alpha is true and false otherwise.

The logical variable alpha doesn't really exist, but TeX behaves as though it did. After \newif\ifalpha, the logical variable is initially false.

\newif is an outer command, so you can't use it inside a macro definition.

Example:

\newif\iflong \longtrue
\iflong Rabbits have long ears.
\else Rabbits don't have long ears.\fi
produces:

Rabbits have long ears.