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Many two-dimensional lattice models of statistical physics are formulated using a special element of the Temperley-Lieb algebra $TL_n(\beta)$. Then the integer n labels the number of sites on lines of the lattice and β parametrizes the model itself. Physically the spectrum of this element, the Hamiltonian, should be real. Mathematically, this requirement states that, in all physically relevant representations, the element should be self-adjoint with respect to some positive-definite bilinear form. I shall display such a bilinear form for the $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -invariant XXZ Hamiltonian that is central to many physical investigations. (Received August 18, 2014)