

`\fontdimen` *<number>* *<font>* [*<dimen>* parameter]

These parameters specify various dimensions associated with the font named by the control sequence *<font>* (as distinguished from the *<font-name>* that names the font files). Values of these parameters are specified in the metrics file for *<font>*, but you can retrieve or change their values during a T<sub>E</sub>X run. The numbers and meanings of the parameters are:

<i>Number</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
1	slant per point
2	interword space
3	interword stretch
4	interword shrink
5	x-height (size of 1ex)
6	quad width (size of 1em)
7	extra space

T<sub>E</sub>X uses the slant per point for positioning accents. It uses the interword parameters for producing interword spaces (see `\spaceskip`, p. ‘`\spaceskip`’) and the extra space parameter for the additional space after a period (see `\xspaceskip`, p. ‘`\xspaceskip`’). The values of these parameters for the plain T<sub>E</sub>X fonts are enumerated on page 433 of *The T<sub>E</sub>Xbook*. Math symbol fonts have 15 additional parameters, which we won’t discuss here.

Beware: assignments to these parameters are *not* undone at the end of a group. If you want to change these parameters locally, you’ll need to save and restore their original settings explicitly.

*Example:*

```
Here’s a line printed normally.\par
\dimen0=\fontdimen2\font
\fontdimen2\font=3\fontdimen2\font % triple word spacing
\noindent Here’s a really spaced-out line.
\fontdimen2\font=\dimen0
```

*produces:*

```
Here’s a line printed normally.
Here’s a really spaced-out line.
```