escape character   **1**

escape character.   An *escape character* introduces a control sequence. The escape character in plain TeX is the backslash (\). You can change the escape character from c_1 to c_2 by reassigning the category codes of c_1 and c_2 with the \catcode command (p. '\catcode'). You can also define additional escape characters similarly. If you want to typeset material containing literal escape characters, you must either (a) define a control sequence that stands for the printed escape character or (b) temporarily disable the escape character by changing its category code, using the method shown on page 'verbatim'. The definition:

    \def\\{$\backslash$}

is one way of creating a control sequence that stands for '\' (a backslash typeset in a math font).

   You can use the \escapechar parameter (p. '\escapechar') to specify how the escape character is represented in synthesized control sequences, e.g., those created by \string and \message.