

`\skewchar` ** [*<number>* parameter]

The `\skewchar` of a font is the character in the font whose kerns, as defined in the font's metrics file, determine the positions of math accents. That is, suppose that T_EX is applying a math accent to the character 'x'. T_EX checks if the character pair 'x`\skewchar`' has a kern; if so, it moves the accent by the amount of that kern. The complete algorithm that T_EX uses to position math accents (which involves many more things) is in Appendix G of *The T_EXbook*.

If the value of `\skewchar` is not in the range 0–255, T_EX takes the kern value to be zero.

Note that ** is a control sequence that names a font, not a *<font-name>* that names font files. Beware: an assignment to `\skewchar` is *not* undone at the end of a group. If you want to change `\skewchar` locally, you'll need to save and restore its original value explicitly.