

`\hyphenchar` *<font>* [*<number>* parameter]

T<sub>E</sub>X doesn't necessarily use the '-' character at hyphenation points. Instead, it uses the `\hyphenchar` of the current font, which is usually '-' but need not be. If a font has a negative `\hyphenchar` value, T<sub>E</sub>X won't hyphenate words in that font.

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

*Example:*

```
\hyphenchar\tenrm = '-  
% Set hyphenation for tenrm font to '-'.  
\hyphenchar\tentt = -1  
% Don't hyphenate words in font tentt.
```