

`\defaultshyphenchar` [*number*] parameter]

When T<sub>E</sub>X reads the metrics file for a font in response to a `\font` command, it sets the font's `\shyphenchar` to `\defaultshyphenchar`. If the value of `\defaultshyphenchar` is not in the range 0–255 when you load a font, T<sub>E</sub>X won't hyphenate any words in that font unless you override the decision by setting the font's `\shyphenchar` later on. Plain T<sub>E</sub>X sets `\defaultshyphenchar` to 45, the ASCII code for '-'.  
*Example:*

```
\defaultshyphenchar = '-'  
% Assume '-' is the hyphen, unless overridden.  
\defaultshyphenchar = -1  
% Don't hyphenate, unless overridden.
```