1

 $\delta e aultskewchar [\langle number \rangle parameter]$

When TEX reads the metrics file for a font in response to a \font command, it sets the font's \skewchar to \defaultskewchar. If the value of \defaultskewchar is not in the range 0–255, TEX does not assign any skew characters by default. Plain TEX sets \defaultskewchar to -1, and it's usually best to leave it there.