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`\defaultskewchar`   [⟨*number*⟩ 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.