

escape character

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escape character. An *escape character* introduces a control sequence. The escape character in plain T_EX is the backslash (`\`). You can change the escape character from c_1 to c_2 by reassigning the category codes of c_1 and c_2 with the `\catcode` command (p. ‘`\catcode`’). You can also define additional escape characters similarly. If you want to typeset material containing literal escape characters, you must either (a) define a control sequence that stands for the printed escape character or (b) temporarily disable the escape character by changing its category code, using the method shown on page ‘`verbatim`’. The definition:

```
\def\{\{$\backslash$\}
```

is one way of creating a control sequence that stands for ‘`\`’ (a backslash typeset in a math font).

You can use the `\escapechar` parameter (p. ‘`\escapechar`’) to specify how the escape character is represented in synthesized control sequences, e.g., those created by `\string` and `\message`.