

Continue

























The Spanish language has 5 different stem-changing patterns. • e changes to ie • o changes to ue • e changes to i • u changes to ue • i changes to ie Each verb has its own set of endings that are added to the verb stem. Let’s learn about them! Notice that the e in pensar changes to ie when it is conjugated in the present tense. The nosotros and vosotros forms are unaffected by this change. • yo pienso• tú piensas• él piensa• nosotros pensamos• vosotros pensáis• ellos piensan Here are common -ar, -er, and -ir verbs that suffer this stem change. • acertar (guess)• alentar (encourage)• apretar (tighten)• arrendar (rent)• asentar (settle)• querer (love, want)• ascender (promote)• atender (attend)• defender (defend)• desatender (neglect)• preferir (prefer)• mentir (lie)• preocupar (concern)• adherir (adhere, attach)• adquirir (acquire, buy) Notice that the o in volver changes to ue when it is conjugated in the present tense. • yo vuelvo• tú vuelves• él vuelve• nosotros volvemos• vosotros volvéis• ellos vuelven These are common -ar, -er, and -ir verbs that suffer this stem change. • acordar (agree)• apostar (bet)• aprobar (approve)• asolar (destroy)• colar (strain)• absolver (absolve)• conmover (stir)• demoler (demolish)• desenvolver (unfold)• devolver (return)• morir (die)• dormir (sleep) Notice that the e in pedir changes to i when it is conjugated in the present tense. • yo pido• tú pides• él pide• nosotros pedimos• vosotros pedís• ellos piden Only -ir verbs suffer this stem change. Look! • seguir (follow)• sonreír (smile)• repetir (repeat)• teñir (dye)• elegir (choose)• regir (govern)• pedir (ask)• derretir (melt)• despedir (dismiss)• freír (fry)• gemir (groan)• impedir (prevent) Notice that the u in jugar changes to ue when it is conjugated in the present tense. • yo juego• tú juegas• él juega• nosotros jugamos• vosotros jugáis• ellos juegan Jugar is the only verb in this category. Notice that the i in adquirir changes to ie when it is conjugated in the present tense. • yo adquiere• tú adquieres• él adquiere• nosotros adquirimos• vosotros adquirís• ellos adquieren Adquirir (to acquire) and inquirir (to inquire) are the only verbs in this category. Are you working on Spanish stem changing verbs with your middle school or high school students? Check out these Spanish stem changing verbs worksheets you can add to your lesson plan!Click here to save this post for later on Pinterest!Here’s a list of commonly-used verbs that change their stem in the present tense:Almorzar Cerrar Contar Competir Dormir Encontrar Entender Jugar Perder Pedir Pensar Preferir Poder Querer Repetir ServirThese common verb conjugations are important for students to be aware of the stem change! Let’s look at some ways to practice working with them. There is a mix of Spanish e to ie, u to ue, e to i, and o to ue in the list above! You may want students to review the parts of the verb like the stem of a verb and the ending so they understand why these are called stem changing verbs before getting into the practice worksheet.In the example pictured above, the verb pensar is broken up to show the stem of the verb and the ending. Sometimes a quick refresh like that on the board can help!Let’s get to the conjugation practice! These Spanish stem changing verbs worksheets include 2 different mazes for these irregular verbs.Included pages:4 Maze Puzzle Pages Answer Key Digital versions of the mazes for use with Google Slides! Student instructions for how to complete the maze Teacher instructions for how to assign via Google ClassroomThis is a great resource to review present tense stem changing verbs. There’s a short tutorial for students on how to complete the maze, and you can choose if you want them to just find the correct answer to find the way through the maze or use the extended version to get plenty of repetition with the Spanish uses of stem changing verbs. Click here to download the activities!If you would like, you can give your students a quick review chart with a conjugation table on one side, and copy a maze on the other side of the page, double sided. This way, you can use a more traditional conjugation review before getting into the puzzle, and save the second maze worksheet for stations or a warm up one day!With the review chart, you can give them a bank of verb options to choose from, or fill in the infinitives yourself before making copies for your students. Students will write in the correct ending for each of the verb forms in the charts. The subject pronouns are filled in in each of the charts, but if you would like to exclude the vosotros forms you can just pop an X in that box or tell students to skip it. The download link for this free pdf is in my freebie library for newsletter subscribers!Click here to get access to the worksheet!If you’re already a newsletter subscriber, here is the link to the Freebie Library.To use this game in your lessons, either print and make copies, or assign the digital version on Google Slides for students to complete. Pick version A or version B for each of the two mazes included. Both versions give students instant feedback through built in incorrect paths. Students will choose the correct answers through the maze, answering a question, choosing a path, and completing the following question until they reach the end. Click here to download the activities!n the extended version, students go back to each box they did not use to solve the maze and write in the correct answers. This can give students a tough time at first if they miss the line in the instructions that reminds them not to use the options on the paths around the box for step 2! Those paths use a different subject, incorrect conjugations, or have other things happening to make them wrong! Students need to go back through the boxes and write in the correct answer and give a short explanation. This can be as simple as underlining the subject pronoun, filling in a missed stem change, or changing an ending. Those spelling change verbs can be tricky! Click here to download the activitiesMaze puzzle worksheets are so versatile! Here’s 10 ways you can add them to your lessons:Warm Up or Bell Ringer Independent Work Centers & Stations Partner Game Small Group Critical Thinking Homework Assignment Formative Assessment Fast Finisher Sub Plans Differentiated PracticeThese are so fun for 6th grade through 12th grade students. Learn more about these ten ways to play in my blog post here!Click here to check out a bundle of activities to practice stem changing verbs with your Spanish students! If you’d like to see more options for reviewing Spanish stem changing verbs with your 6th grade through 12th grade students, check out my blog post! You’ll find Boom Cards (digital task cards), scavenger hunts, and more! Click here to check out my blog post full of activities here!Click here to save this post for later on Pinterest!Fun Educational Games for Vocabulary in World Languages ClassesSpanish Games for ConjugationPresent Tense Regular Verbs Activities This NO PREP packet includes 11 pages worth of exercises/activities to practice stem changing verbs in the present tense. The activities cover both e --> ie verbs and o -->ue verbs and include: querer, preferir, empezar, comenzar, perder, pensar and dormir, poder, volver, devolver as well as jugar. There are a wide variety of different types of exercises including charts, sentence fill ins, choosing the correct verb (focus on meaning), answering questions (in tú / Uds. / and about As you may already know, all verbs in Spanish are formed by a stem and an ending. Regular verbs change their ending following simple rules without affecting the first part of the verb, but Spanish stem-changing verbs are special because they change their ending and their stem as well. Some of these verbs are very common and useful in everyday situations. In this lesson, we will learn how to make sentences with stem-changing verbs in Spanish in the present tense. Let’s start... Los verbos con cambios de raíz Spanish stem-changing verbs need to change their stem spelling in order to keep a similar pronunciation of the verb in infinitive. They will be modified for all the pronouns, except for the subject pronouns VOS, VOSOTROS and NOSOTROS. The first rule says that when the vowel O is found in the stem, then there must be a stem change from O to UE. A popular verb following this rule is DORMIR (to sleep), which can be divided into DORM (stem) and IR (ending). The letter O is found in DORM, so we must make a stem change from O to UE for all subject pronouns, except for VOS, VOSOTROS and NOSOTROS. Therefore, we must say “Yo duermo” not “Yo dormo” as it should be done if the verb were regular. Here is a list of Spanish stem-changing verbs O to UE: dormir (to sleep), contar (to count), costar (to cost), encontrar (to find/to meet), recordar (to remember), volar (to fly), volver (to return) and almorzar (to eat lunch). Yo duermo ocho horas todos los días / I sleep eight hours every day Tú duermes demasiado durante el día / You sleep too much every day El duerme solo algunas horas / He sleeps only a few hours Dormimos en la misma habitación / We sleep in the same room The second rule we will learn says that if the vowel in the verb’s stem is E, then the vowel should change from E to IE. Similarly to the first rule, the stem change does not apply when the subject is VOS, VOSOTROS or NOSOTROS. The verb PENSAR is a very important stem-changing verb following this rule. The stem PENS- will change to PIENS- for the pronoun TÚ as in the sentence “Tú piensas” Here is a list of stem changing verbs E to IE: empezar (to begin), querer (to want), pensar (to think), divertirse (to have fun), despertarse (to wake up), sentir (to feel), mentir (to lie), cerrar (to close) and entender (to understand). (Yo) Pienso que esa es una buena idea. I think that is a good idea ¿(Tú) Piensas que esto es importante? Do you think this is important? Vos pensáis que ella es bonita You think she is beautiful Ella piensa que está loco She thinks that he is crazy Pensamos que deberías quedarte. Nosotros pensáis que estoy enojado. You think that I am angry Ellos piensan que soy listo. The third rule says that if the stem contains the vowel E, then we must change the stem from E to I only when the verb in infinitive ends in IR like SERVIR. For the verb SERVIR, we should say “Yo sirvo” not “Yo servo”. Some common Spanish stem-changing verbs E to I are: servir (to serve), repetir (to repeat), seguir (to follow) and vestirse (to get dressed). Repito las canciones cuando me gustan I repeat the songs when I like them Vos repetís eso una y otra vez. You repeat that again and again Ella repite los mismos errores. She repeats the same mistakes Nosotros repetimos las actividades Vosotros repetís el viaje cada año. You repeat the trip every year The fourth rule is actually pretty simple and only affects one very common verb and that is JUGAR (to play), changing the stem from U to UE. JUGAR would be conjugated like this “Yo juego”, “Tú juegas”, “El juega”, “Nosotros jugamos”, “Vosotros jugáis”, “Ellos juegan”. Spanish Stem-Changing Verbs O to UE The Verb PODER in Spanish (Sentences) ¡Hola! Thanks for using our resources. This time, we are sharing another great PDF worksheet to practice the grammar rules to conjugate stem-changing verbs in Spanish in the present tense, particularly those whose stem (la raíz del verbo) will change from -E to -I. Let’s start... Students could work individually or in pairs on these exercises. They can also solve it online through the quizzes in this page. Some Spanish verbs suffer a change in their stem when conjugated in the present tense for a group of subject pronouns (yo, tú, él, ustedes, ellos). This happens to common verbs with an -E in their stem, such as “Pedir” (to ask for) and “Repetir” (to repeat). For these special verbs, we will replace the -E in the stem (second on in “repetir”) for the vowel -I, just like this: Yo repito el poema para recordarlo. (I repeat the poem to remember it. - Here, the verb repetir has an -e in the stem, so instead of saying “yo repeto”, we will say “repito”) Ellos repiten las instrucciones. (They repeat the instructions. - Here, the verb repetir also has an -e in the stem, so we will not say “ellos repeten”, but “repiten”) To solve the first exercise, students must complete the chart on the worksheet containing a list of ten common stem-changing in Spanish -E to -I and conjugate all of them in the present tense. Students could make use of a conjugation tool to double-check the right form of these verbs. To solve the second exercise, students must fill in the blanks using the correct forms of the stem-changing verbs in parentheses following the pattern for these verbs. Level: Pre-IntermediateSkill: GrammarRelated lessons: Spanish Stem-Changing Verbs E to I - PDF Worksheet (with answers)Download Complete the chart with the correct conjugations for each stem-changing verb E to IE in Spanish. Fill in the blanks with the right forms of the verbs in parentheses. Skip links Skip to primary navigation Skip to content Today we’re going to take a look at one of the first concepts in Spanish grammar you’ll need to master - stem changes. And no, unfortunately - we’re not talking about flowers. We’re talking about changes that some verbs undergo when you are conjugating them. The good news is — it’s not complicated at all! This should be a pretty simple topic that you’ll be able to understand right away. The bad news - it does take a bit of memorization and hard work. But then again, all languages take plenty of work, so that’s okay! In this article, we’ll go over absolutely everything you need to learn about these changing verbs in Spanish so that you can start using them automatically like a native. ¡A practicar! How to Conjugate Regular Verbs The first thing we need to work on is reviewing conjugation. Since that is the basis of this whole concept, we’ll give it a quick review. Remember that normal verbs need to change when they are referring to different people. This happens in English, too! In English, you would say things like “I eat”, but “He eats”. That change is called conjugation. However in Spanish, there are many more regular conjugations, and the verbs ending in -AR, -ER, and -IR all have different changes. Here’s a quick review of regular verb conjugations. Verb Form -AR verbs -ER verbs -IR verbs Yo hablo corro abro Tú hablas corres abres Vos habláis corréis abris El / Ella / Usted habla corre abre Nosotros hablamos corremos abrimos Vosotros habláis corréis abris Ellos / Ellas / Ustedes hablan corren abren So keep these normal conjugated endings in mind because you’ll need to use them, plus some irregular stem changes. So now that we’ve mentioned how to conjugate, the next step is to figure out what the stem is for these irregular verbs. Basically, the stem is the base part of the word without the ending. So in the verb tener, the stem is ten, and the ER is the ending. Now when we talk about stem changes, we’re referring to a vowel change in the main part of the verb. Now let’s take a deeper look into these changing verbs in Spanish. Present Tense Stem Changing Verbs In the present tense, stem-changing verbs are often called boot verbs because of the pattern of stem-changing that occurs. If you look at the stem-changing verbs conjugation tables, everything except for Nosotros and Vosotros forms has a stem change. So the verbs form the shape of a boot when looking at the chart. In Spanish, these stem-changing verbs are referred to as Verbos radicales. Maybe that sounds a little bit more dramatic than “boot verbs”, but it’s another way to look at it! So now, let’s go over the basic types of stem-changing verbs so we can put these “radical” changes in categories. E to IE The first major type of stem change for Spanish verbs in the present tense is from E to IE. This means that the letter E in the syllable before the ending changes to the letters IE. The most common example of this stem-changing category is the word Querer (To want / To love) Singular Present Tense Yo quiero Nosotros queremos Tú quieres Vosotros queréis El / Ella / Usted quiere Ellos / Ellas / Ustedes quieren QUICK NOTE... The vos form, common in parts of Latin America, is always regular! So no need to worry about stem changes! So the E in the stem changes to an IE in the conjugations for Yo, Tú, El, and Ellos. This is the most common stem-changing verb form, so it’s important to remember this one. In fact, many of the most common stem-changing verbs in Spanish are E to IE stem-changing verbs. Here is a list of other verbs that follow this pattern as well. Pensar -To think Empezar -To start Comenzar -To start Cerrar -To close Despertar -To wake up Negar -To deny Apretar -To tighten Recomendar -To recommend Sentarse -To sit down Perder -To lose Defender -To defend Entender -To understand Encender -To light Convertir -To convert Mentir -To lie Preferir -To prefer Sentir -To feel Sugerir -To suggest And this isn’t even a complete list! As you can see, though, you can have AR, ER, and IR verbs follow this pattern, so there’s no limitation. You may have also noticed that many basic words are stem-changing verbs. If you think about it, this makes sense. Since the words that are the most common tend to be the most irregular, the simple words often have stem changes! Now let’s move on to the next type of stem-changing verbs in Spanish. U to UE Jugar is actually the only verb that has this type of stem change, so you’re in luck! Once you memorize how to do the stem change for this verb, you don’t even need to apply it to anything else. This verb has its stem changed from U to UE according to this chart: Singular Present Tense Plural Present Tense Yo juego Nosotros jugamos Tú juegas Vosotros jugáis El / Ella / Usted juega Ellos / Ellas / Ustedes juegan This next stem change is actually pretty similar to the last one you just saw. The only difference here is that there are multiple verbs that follow this pattern. Verbs like Dormir have the infinitive stem change from the letter O to a UE like this: Singular Present Tense Plural Present Tense Yo duermo Nosotros dormimos Tú duermes Vosotros dormís El / Ella / Usted duerme Ellos / Ellas / Ustedes duermen This is something you’ll see quite often, and with some pretty basic vocabulary. So the earlier you learn this type of stem-changing verb conjugation, the better. To help you out, here is a list of other verbs with a UE change. Morir -To die Poder -To be able Volver -To return Soler -To tend to do something Mover -To move Llover -To rain Doler -To hurt Remover -To stir Costar -To cost Acordar -To remember Probar -To try Comprobar -To check Renovar -To renew Soñar -To dream Oler -To smell\* Note that on this last one, Oler is an extra-irregular verb, since it will change from O to HUE. So you get Yo huelo, tú hueles, etc. And once again, this isn’t a comprehensive list of stem-changing verbs conjugated this way, in fact, there are many more verbs in Spanish that function like this. So keep your eye out and be wary of the letter O the syllable before the verb ending. E to I This last one is not as common as some of the other stem-changing verbs in Spanish, but it still is important to watch out for them. Here, the letter E changes to a letter I in the present tense. Singular Present Tense Plural Present Tense Yo sirvo Nosotros servimos Tú sirves Vosotros servís El / Ella / Usted sirve Ellos / Ellas / Ustedes sirven So in these cases, the E changes to an I. These ones can be tricky because you have to remember that it changes to an I, not an IE, like in the other category of stem-changing verbs. Some other examples of E to I stem-changing verbs in Spanish are: Medir -To measure Competir -To compete Impedir -To impede Repetir -To repeat Vestir -To dress Derretir -To melt Despedir -To say goodbye Rendir -To give up The good thing is that this type of stem-changing verb has a pattern! Notice that only IR verbs follow this type of stem change. This is a key factor to notice since it will really help you with your vocabulary memorization skills. How to Identify Spanish Stem-Changing Verbs Image by Markus Winkler via Unsplash Now here is the big question - how do you identify Spanish stem-changing verbs? Unfortunately, the short answer is: memorization. There isn’t really one key trick you can do to remember which verbs follow a regular pattern of conjugation and which ones have a stem change. Just like other types of irregular verbs, the only thing you can do is try and memorize them. There are some basic patterns you can pay attention to that might help you, but there’s no guarantee. For example, many words, like the verb Repetir, that are IR verbs and have an E will be stem-changing. Unfortunately, there’s no clear rule on how to conjugate this Spanish verb, since this fits the category for both E to I and E to IE verbs. The best thing you can do is to pay special attention to these stem-changing verbs in the present tense and try using memorization techniques like flashcards. Another great technique to learn is to challenge yourself to work on one category of verb at a time so you don’t get so overwhelmed. By learning them little by little, you’ll be better able to handle all of this memorization. Don’t forget - the best way to learn a language is by practicing! If you want to get some first-hand experience using these stem-changing verbs in Spanish, check out how to get the most of our Spanish Conversation Classes. If you have a stem-changing verb in the present tense, most likely it is also a stem-changing verb in the present subjunctive and, possibly, in the preterite tense. For example, Querer in the present subjunctive is Yo quiera, tú quieras, etc. Then, in the preterite it’s Yo quise, tú quisiste, etc. So if a verb is a stem-changing verb in the present indicative, the same type of change will occur in the present subjunctive. That’s easy enough to remember the rule for these stem-changing verbs in Spanish. However, for the preterite, sometimes you can get the same type of stem change, but sometimes it’s just completely different. For example, the verb Servir is E to I in the present tense. Yo sirvo, tú sirves, él sirve. (present indicative) Yo sirva, tú sirvas, él sirva. (present subjunctive) Yo serví, tú serviste, él sirvió. (preterite) Here you can see that the same patterns occur for the subjunctive tense, but only the third person is conjugated as a stem-changing form for the preterite. For the rest of the cases, it functions like any of the regular verbs in that tense. This is a common pattern for IR verbs (Preferir, Repetir, etc.), but this is by no means a firm rule. For example, Mentir is an I to IE verb in the present, but the third person preterite is also Mintió. The takeaway here is: Stem-changing verbs in the present indicative follow the same pattern for the present subjunctive. Stem-changing verbs in the present indicative are Red Flags for the preterite. All done! Image by Julia M Cameron via Pexels Had enough irregularities yet? Stem-changing verbs in Spanish can be pretty tough for beginners at first, but like everything, La práctica hace el maestro (practice makes perfect). The best way to tackle these first is to first, accept them for the way there are. Sometimes languages just do weird things and you just have to go with it. And secondly, keep practicing! The more you work on it, the quicker these conjugations will become automatic in your head. And one day, you’ll wonder why you ever found it difficult in the first place. So if you’re ready to start putting stem-changing verbs into practice, go ahead and sign up for a free private class or a 7-day free trial of our group classes so you can show us what you got! Download our e-book, Easy Spanish Shortcuts, and learn your first 1,000 Spanish words in under a day! More than 1000 happy students 100% satisfaction guarantee Serious about security & privacy Copyright © 2023 SpanishVIP, Inc. All Rights Reserved. support@spanishvip.com Copyright © 2023 SpanishVIP, Inc. All Rights Reserved. support@spanishvip.com Home » Spanish Verb Tenses Exercises » Spanish Stem and Spelling Changing Verbs Preterite 3