

# Stem-changing Verbs

## Present Tense

1. The stem or root of a verb is the beginning of the verb before the –AR, –ER, or –IR ending. In the present tense some verbs may have a change in the stem.
  - In stem-changing verbs, the vowel **e** from the stem converts to **ie**, **e > ie**
  - The vowel **o** from the stem converts to **ue**, **o > ue**
  - These changes occur in all persons of the singular (*yo, tú, él/ella/usted*) and the third person plural (*ellos/ellas/ustedes*) of –AR, –ER, and –IR stem-changing verbs.
  - These changes do not occur in the *nosotros* or *vosotros* forms.

pensar (ie)- to think	
yo <b>pi</b> enso	nosotros <b>pi</b> nsamos
tú <b>pi</b> ensas	vosotros <b>pi</b> nsáis
él/ella/usted <b>pi</b> ensa	ellos/ellas/ustedes <b>pi</b> ensan

perder (ie)- to lose	
yo <b>pie</b> rdo	nosotros <b>pie</b> rdemos
tú <b>pie</b> rdes	vosotros <b>pie</b> rdéis
él/ella/usted <b>pie</b> rde	ellos/ellas/ustedes <b>pie</b> rden

dormir (ue)- to sleep	
yo <b>due</b> rmo	nosotros <b>due</b> rmimos
tú <b>due</b> rmes	vosotros <b>due</b> rmís
él/ella/usted <b>due</b> rme	ellos/ellas/ustedes <b>due</b> rmen

2. Some –IR verbs have an **e > i** stem change.

repetir- to repeat	
yo <b>repi</b> to	nosotros <b>repi</b> timos
tú <b>repi</b> tes	vosotros <b>repi</b> tís
él/ella/usted <b>repi</b> te	ellos/ellas/ustedes <b>repi</b> ten

### Common Stem-changing verbs

o > ue	e > ie	e > i
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ ac<u>o</u>star – <i>to put to bed</i></li> <li>♣ alm<u>o</u>rzar – <i>to eat lunch</i></li> <li>♣ c<u>o</u>ntar – <i>to count or to tell</i></li> <li>♣ d<u>o</u>rmir – <i>to sleep</i></li> <li>♣ en<u>o</u>contrar – <i>to meet</i></li> <li>♣ j<u>u</u>gar (u &gt; ue) – <i>to play</i></li> <li>♣ ll<u>o</u>ver – <i>to rain</i></li> <li>♣ m<u>o</u>rir – <i>to die</i></li> <li>♣ m<u>o</u>strar – <i>to show</i></li> <li>♣ m<u>o</u>ver – <i>to move</i></li> <li>♣ p<u>o</u>der – <i>to be able to</i></li> <li>♣ rec<u>o</u>rdar – <i>to remember</i></li> <li>♣ s<u>o</u>ñar – <i>to dream</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ cal<u>e</u>ntar – <i>to heat</i></li> <li>♣ com<u>e</u>nzar – <i>to begin</i></li> <li>♣ def<u>e</u>nder – <i>to defend</i></li> <li>♣ desp<u>e</u>rtar – <i>to wake</i></li> <li>♣ div<u>e</u>rtir – <i>to have fun</i></li> <li>♣ em<u>e</u>pezar – <i>to begin</i></li> <li>♣ enc<u>e</u>nder – <i>to turn on</i></li> <li>♣ ent<u>e</u>nder – <i>to understand</i></li> <li>♣ m<u>e</u>ntir – <i>to lie</i></li> <li>♣ p<u>e</u>nsar – <i>to think</i></li> <li>♣ p<u>e</u>rder – <i>to lose</i></li> <li>♣ p<u>e</u>rferir – <i>to prefer</i></li> <li>♣ qu<u>e</u>rer – <i>to want</i></li> <li>♣ s<u>e</u>ntar – <i>to sit</i></li> <li>♣ s<u>e</u>ntir – <i>to feel</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ corr<u>e</u>gir – <i>to correct</i></li> <li>♣ el<u>e</u>gir – <i>to elect or to chose</i></li> <li>♣ p<u>e</u>dir – <i>to ask for</i></li> <li>♣ rep<u>e</u>tir – <i>to repeat</i></li> <li>♣ s<u>e</u>rvir – <i>to serve</i></li> <li>♣ m<u>e</u>dir – <i>to measure</i></li> </ul>

# Preterit Tense

➤ In the preterit tense, **only – IR** verbs can experience a stem change.

- The change only occurs in the third person singular (*él/ella/usted*) and plural (*ellos/ellas/ustedes*) forms of the verbs.

▣ The vowel **e** from the stem changes to **i**, **e > i**, like in the verbs *sentir* and *pedir*

<b>sentir – to feel</b>	
sentí	sentimos
sentiste	sentisteis
sintió	sintieron

<b>pedir – to ask for</b>	
pedí	pedimos
pediste	pedisteis
pidió	pidieron

▣ The vowel **o** from the stem changes to **u**, **o > u**, like in the verbs *dormir* and *morir*

<b>dormir – to sleep</b>	
dormí	dormimos
dormiste	dormisteis
durmió	durmieron

<b>morir – to die</b>	
morí	morimos
moriste	moristeis
murió	murieron

➤ For pronunciation reasons, some -AR verbs have spelling changes that occur **only** in the *yo*-form (1<sup>st</sup> person singular) of the verb. All other forms of the verb are normal.

- In -AR verbs ending in...
  - ▣ **-car**, the **c** changes to **qu**

<b>tocar – to play or to touch</b>	
toqué	tocamos
tocaste	tocasteis
tocó	tocaron

<b>sacar – to take out</b>	
saqué	sacamos
sacaste	sacasteis
sacó	sacaron

▣ **-gar**, the **g** changes to **gu**

<b>pagar – to pay</b>	
pagué	pagamos
pagaste	pagasteis
pagó	pagaron

<b>jugar – to play</b>	
jugué	jugamos
jugaste	jugasteis
jugó	jugaron

▣ **-zar**, the **z** changes to **c**

<b>cruzar – to play</b>	
crucé	cruzamos
cruzaste	cruzasteis
cruzó	cruzaron

<b>comenzar – to pay</b>	
comencé	comenzamos
comenzaste	comenzasteis
comenzó	comenzaron

➤ When conjugating -ER and -IR verbs whose stems end in a vowel, note the spelling change in the third person singular (**-ió**) and plural (**-ieron**) of the verb.

- The letter **i** from the **-ió** and the **-ieron** ending changes into the letter **y**.
- The letter **i** on all the other forms of the verb receives an accent.
  - ☐ This change occurs because any time there is an unaccented letter *i* between two vowels, the *i* changes to a *y*.

<b>Creer – to believe</b>	
cre <u>í</u>	cre <u>í</u> mos
cre <u>í</u> ste	cre <u>í</u> steis
cre <u>y</u> ó	cre <u>y</u> eron

<b>caer – to fall</b>	
ca <u>í</u>	ca <u>í</u> mos
ca <u>í</u> ste	ca <u>í</u> steis
ca <u>y</u> ó	ca <u>y</u> eron

- The -IR verb, **oír**, follows this same pattern.

<b>Oír – to hear</b>	
o <u>í</u>	o <u>í</u> mos
o <u>í</u> ste	o <u>í</u> steis
o <u>y</u> ó	o <u>y</u> eron

➤ -IR verbs ending in **-iur** have a similar spelling change involving the letter **y** for the same reason.

- These spelling changes only occur in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular and plural forms of the verb.
  - ☐ This does not include verbs ending in **-guir** (like *seguir*).

<b>incluir – to include</b>	
inclu <u>í</u>	inclu <u>í</u> mos
inclu <u>í</u> ste	inclu <u>í</u> steis
inclu <u>y</u> ó	inclu <u>y</u> eron

<b>construir – to construct</b>	
constru <u>í</u>	constru <u>í</u> mos
constru <u>í</u> ste	constru <u>í</u> steis
constru <u>y</u> ó	constru <u>y</u> eron

# Stem-Changing Verbs

## UE Stem-Changing Verb

Encontrar: To find, encounter

<u>Tense</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>
<b><u>Present</u></b>	I find	Yo <u>encuentro</u>	You find (informal)	Tú <u>encuentras</u>	He, she, you find(s) (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>encuentra</u>	We find	Nosotros <u>encontramos</u>	They, you find (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>encuentran</u>
<b><u>Preterit</u></b>	I found	Yo <u>encontré</u>	You found (informal)	Tú <u>encontraste</u>	He, she, you found (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>encontró</u>	We found	Nosotros <u>encontramos</u>	They, you found (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>encontraron</u>
<b><u>Imperfect</u></b>	I used to find	Yo <u>encontraba</u>	You used to find (informal)	Tú <u>encontrabas</u>	He, she, you used to find (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>encontraba</u>	We used to find	Nosotros <u>encontrábamos</u>	They, you used to find (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>encontraban</u>
<b><u>Future</u></b>	I will find	Yo <u>encontraré</u>	You will find (informal)	Tú <u>encontrarás</u>	He, she, you will find (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>encontrará</u>	We will find	Nosotros <u>encontraremos</u>	They, you will find (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>encontrarán</u>
<b><u>Present Subjunctive</u></b>	I find	Yo <u>encuentre</u>	You find (informal)	Tú <u>encuentres</u>	He, she, you find(s) (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>encuentre</u>	We find	Nosotros <u>encontremos</u>	They, you find (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>encuentren</u>
<b><u>Past Subjunctive</u></b>	I found	Yo <u>encontrara</u>	You found (informal)	Tú <u>encontraras</u>	He, she, you found (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>encontrara</u>	We found	Nosotros <u>encontráramos</u>	They, you found (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>encontraran</u>
<b><u>Present Perfect</u></b>	I have found	Yo <u>he</u> encontrado	You have found (informal)	Tú <u>has</u> encontrado	He, she, you have found (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>ha</u> encontrado	We have found	Nosotros <u>hemos</u> encontrado	They, you have found (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>han</u> encontrado

## UE Stem-Changing Verb Example Sentences

1. Present Tense- He finds- **Encuentra**

English: He finds a lot of information when he reads his history book.

Spanish: **Encuentra** mucha información cuando lee su libro de historia.

2. Future Tense- We will find- **Encontraremos**

English: We will find what we need for the project.

Spanish: **Encontraremos** lo que necesitamos para el proyecto.

3. Imperfect Tense- You used to find (informal)- **Encontrabas**

English: You used to find everything. Now you can't find anything.

Spanish: **Encontrabas** todo. Pero ahora no puedes encontrar nada.

4. Preterit Tense- They found- **Encontraron**

English: They found a lot of information about the environment on the news last night.

Spanish: **Encontraron** mucha información sobre el ambiente vía las noticias anoche.

5. Past Subjunctive Tense- She found- **Encontrara**

English: We hoped that she found her part of the information for the group to complete the history project.

Spanish: Esperamos que **encontrara** su parte de la información para el grupo para completar el proyecto para la clase de historia.

6. Present Subjunctive- I find- **Encuentre**

English: She hopes I find everything I need for my aunt's party.

Spanish: Espera que yo **encuentre** todo lo que necesito para la fiesta de mi tía.

7. Present Perfect Tense- You have found (plural)- **Han encontrado**

English: You have found a lot of information about the forests of the Americas.

Spanish: **Han encontrado** mucha información sobre los bosques de las Américas.

## IE Stem-Changing Verbs

### Querer: To want or to love

<u>Tense</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>
<b><u>Present</u></b>	I want/love	Yo <u>quiero</u>	You want/love (informal)	Tú <u>quieres</u>	He, she, you wants/loves	él, ella, usted <u>quiere</u>	We want/love	Nosotros <u>queremos</u>	They, you want/love (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>quieren</u>
<b><u>Preterit</u></b>	I wanted/loved	Yo <u>quise</u>	You wanted/loved (informal)	Tú <u>quisiste</u>	He, she, you wanted/loved (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>quiso</u>	We wanted/loved	Nosotros <u>quisimos</u>	They, wanted/loved (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>quisieron</u>
<b><u>Imperfect</u></b>	I used to want/love	Yo <u>quería</u>	You used to want/love	Tú <u>querás</u>	He, she, you used to want/love (formal)	él, ella, usted <u>quería</u>	We used to want/love	Nosotros <u>queríamos</u>	They, you used to want/love (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>querían</u>
<b><u>Future</u></b>	I will want/love	Yo <u>querré</u>	You will want/love (informal)	Tú <u>querrás</u>	He, she, you will want/love (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>querrá</u>	We will want/love	Nosotros <u>querramos</u>	They, you will want/love (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>querrán</u>
<b><u>Present Subjunctive</u></b>	I want/love	Yo <u>quiera</u>	You want/love (informal)	Tú <u>quieras</u>	He, she, you wants/loves (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>quiera</u>	We want/love	Nosotros <u>quieramos</u>	They, you want/love (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>quieran</u>
<b><u>Past Subjunctive</u></b>	I wanted/loved	Yo <u>quisiera</u>	You wanted/loved (informal)	Tú <u>quisieras</u>	He, she, you wanted/loved a person (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>quisiera</u>	We wanted/loved	Nosotros <u>quisieramos</u>	They, you wanted/loved (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>quisieran</u>
<b><u>Present Perfect</u></b>	I have wanted/loved	Yo <u>he querido</u>	You have wanted/loved (informal)	Tú <u>has querido</u>	He, she, you have wanted/loved (formal)	él, ella, usted <u>ha querido</u>	We have wanted/loved	Nosotros <u>hemos querido</u>	They, you have wanted/loved (plural)	Él, ella, usted <u>han querido</u>

## IE Stem-Changing Verb Example Sentences

1. Present Tense- We want- **Queremos**

English: They give us what we want.

Spanish: Nos dan lo que **queremos**.

2. Imperfect Tense- You used to want (informal)- **Querías**

English: You used to want to go to the park all the time. Now you want to stay home.

Spanish: **Querías** ir al parque todo el tiempo. Ahora quieres quedarte en casa.

3. Preterit Tense- I wanted- **Quise**

English: I wanted to go to the party last night, but my Dad didn't let me.

Spanish: **Quise** ir a la fiesta anoche, pero mi papa no me permitió.

4. Future Tense- He will want- **Querrá**

English: He will want to travel to different places in the world after he graduates college.

Spanish: **Querrá** viajar a lugares diferentes el mundo después de que se gradúe de la Universidad.

5. Present Subjunctive Tense- You want (formal)- **Quiera**

English: We hope you want to help us with the project.

Spanish: Esperamos que **quiera** ayudarnos con el proyecto.

6. Present Perfect Tense- They have wanted- **Han querido**

English: They have wanted to go there before.

Spanish: **Han querido** ir allá antes.

7. Past Subjunctive Tense- I wanted- **Quisiera**

English: They wished I wanted to work with them.

Spanish: Esperaron que yo **quisiera** trabajar con ellos.



## I Stem-Changing Verbs

### Pedir: To ask for, request

<u>Tense</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>	<u>Eng</u>	<u>Span</u>
<b><u>Present</u></b>	I ask for/request	Yo <u>pi</u> do	You ask for/request (informal)	Tú <u>pi</u> des	He, she, you asks for/requests (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>pi</u> de	We ask for/request	Nosotros <u>pi</u> dimos	They, you ask for/request (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>pi</u> den
<b><u>Preterit</u></b>	I asked for/requested	Yo <u>pe</u> dí	You asked for/requested (informal)	Tú <u>pe</u> diste	He, she, you asked for/requested	Él, ella, usted <u>pe</u> dió	We asked for/requested	Nosotros <u>pe</u> dimos	They, you asked for/requested (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustdes <u>pe</u> dieron
<b><u>Imperfect</u></b>	I used to ask for/request	Yo <u>pe</u> día	You used to ask for/request (informal)	Tú <u>pe</u> días	He, she, you used to ask for/request (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>pe</u> día	We used to ask for/request	Nosotros <u>pe</u> díamos	They, you used to ask for/request (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>pe</u> dían
<b><u>Future</u></b>	I will ask for/request	Yo <u>pe</u> diré	You will ask for/request (informal)	Tú <u>pe</u> dirás	He, she, you will ask for/request (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>pe</u> dirá	We will ask for/request	Nosotros <u>pe</u> diremos	They, you will ask for/request (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>pe</u> dirán
<b><u>Present Subjunctive</u></b>	I ask for/request	Yo <u>pi</u> da	You ask for/request (informal)	Tú <u>pi</u> das	He, she, you ask for/request (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>pi</u> da	We ask for/request	Nosotros <u>pi</u> damos	They, you ask for/request (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustdes <u>pi</u> dan
<b><u>Past Subjunctive</u></b>	I asked for/requested	Yo <u>pi</u> diera	You asked for/requested (informal)	Tú <u>pi</u> dieras	He, she, you asked for/requested (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>pi</u> diera	We asked for/requested	Nosotros <u>pi</u> diéramos	They, you asked for/requested (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustedes <u>pi</u> dieran
<b><u>Present Perfect</u></b>	I have asked for/requested	Yo <u>he</u> <u>pe</u> didido	You have asked for/requested (informal)	Tú <u>has</u> <u>pe</u> dididos	He, she, you have asked for/requested (formal)	Él, ella, usted <u>ha</u> <u>pe</u> didido	We have asked for/requested	Nosotros <u>he</u> <u>mos</u> <u>pe</u> didido	They, you have asked for/requested (plural)	Ellos, ellas, ustdes <u>han</u> <u>pe</u> didido

## I Stem-Changing Verb Example Sentences

1. Preterit Tense- He asked for- **Pidió**  
English: After running five miles, he asked for the bottle of water.  
Spanish: Después de correr cinco millas, **pidió** la botella de agua.
2. Present Tense- I ask for- **Pido**  
English: I always ask for ice cream on a hot summer day.  
Spanish: Siempre, **pido** helado en un día calor en el verano.
3. Future Tense- You will ask for (informal)- **Pedirás**  
English: You will ask for the special plates when you order your dinner.  
Spanish: **Pedirás** los platos especiales cuando ordenes la cena.
4. Imperfect Tense- They used to ask for- **Pedían**  
English: They used to ask for orange juice all the time at breakfast, but now they want milk.  
Spanish: **Pedían** el jugo de naranja todo el tiempo al desayuno, pero ahora, quieren leche.
5. Present Subjunctive Tense- We ask for- **Pidamos**  
English: They hope we ask for their favorite wine at dinner tonight.  
Spanish: Esperan que **pidamos** su vino favorite para la cena esta noche.
6. Present Perfect Tense- You have asked for (formal)- **Ha pedido**  
English: You have asked for that drink many times.  
Spanish: **Ha pedido** ese refresco muchas veces.
7. Past Subjunctive Tense- You (plural)- **Pidieran**  
English: I hope you asked your teachers for the information about the new program at school.  
Spanish: Espero que les **pidieran** a sus maestros la información sobre el programa nuevo a la escuela.