

Irregular Preterite verbs

In addition to the spell-changing verbs (categories 1-2), there are several verbs which are irregular in the Preterite tense. The remaining three categories of irregular preterite verbs are shown below. Italics indicate an irregular conjugation of the verb.

stem changers (-ir verbs, Ud/él/ella and Uds./ellos/ellas forms only)

servir: serví, serviste, *servió*, servimos, servisteis, *servieron*
 dormir: dormí, dormiste, *dormió*, dormimos, *durmieron*
 pedir: pedí, pediste, *pidió*, pedimos, pedisteis, *pidieron*
 morir: morí, moriste, *murió*, morimos, moristeis, *murieron*
 sentir: sentí, sentiste, *sintió*, sentimos, sentisteis, *sintieron*
 seguir: seguí, seguiste, *siguió*, seguimos, seguisteis, *siguieron*
 (all other -ir stem-changing verbs follow this same pattern)

Very irregular (the twins)

(ver): *vi*, viste, *vio*, vimos, visteis, vieron (omission of accents is the only irregular quality)
 dar: *di*, diste, *dio*, dimos, disteis, *dieron* (endings match those of “ver”, the fraternal twin)
 ir: *fui*, fuiste, *fue*, fuimos, fuisteis, *fueron* (identical forms to the twin “ser”)
 ser: *fui*, fuiste, *fue*, fuimos, fuisteis, *fueron* (identical forms to the twin “ir”)
 The difference between “ser” and “ir” in the preterite is that “ir” is almost always followed by the pronoun “a”. Look for context to help as well. (Fui a la tienda = I went to the store; Fui estudiante = I was a student)

The “regular” irregulars

The “regular” irregulars are those which all use the endings from the table below (a hybrid of -ar and -er endings without accents) but which have altered roots. The new roots are given in parenthesis after the verb in the list to the right, along with conjugations.

“regular” irregular verb endings:

-e	-imos
-iste	isteis
-o	-ieron (-eron after “j”)

To practice these verbs, please visit:

<http://www.studyspanish.com/tutorial.htm> (exercises 68, 70, 71, 72)
<http://www.conjuguemos.com> (exercises 8, 9, 10)
<http://www.spaleon.com/pret.php>
<http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/exercises/preterite.html>

“j” group	conducir (conduj) - to drive: decir (dij) - to say or tell: traer (traj) - to bring: traducir (traduj) - to translate:	conduje, condujiste, condujo, condujimos, <i>condujeron</i> dije, dijiste, dijo, dijimos, <i>dijeron</i> traje, trajiste, trajo, trajimos, <i>trajeron</i> traduje, tradujiste, tradujo, tradujimos, <i>tradujeron</i>
“i” group	hacer (hic/hiz) - to do or make: querer (quis) - to try*: venir (vin) - to come:	hice, hiciste, <i>hizo</i> , hicimos, <i>hicieron</i> quise, quisiste, quiso, quisimos, quisieron vine, viniste, vino, vinimos, vinieron
“uv” group	tener (tuv) - to have: andar(anduv) - to walk: estar (estuv) - to be:	tuve, tuviste, tuvo, tuvimos, tuvieron anduve, anduviste, anduvo, anduvimos, anduvieron estuve, estuviste, estuvo, estuvimos, estuvieron
“u” group	poder (pud) - to succeed at*: poner (pus) - to put: saber (sup) - to find out*:	pude, pudiste, pudo, pudimos, pudieron puse, pusiste, puso, pusimos, pusieron supe, supiste, supo, supimos, supieron

* verb meaning differs slightly from that in the present tense.