

## Stem changing verbs (present tense)

There is a large category of irregular verbs in Spanish known as “stem-changing” verbs. Their common element is that each experiences a change in the vowels of some conjugations. These changes apply only to the present tense forms of the verbs. There are three basic types of stem-changing verbs:

### 1. o:ue (u:ue)

dormir (o:ue)-to sleep	
<b>duermo</b>	dormimos
<b>duermes</b>	dormís
<b>duerme</b>	duermen

#### Other important (o:ue) verbs:

costar (to cost)  
 contar (to count; to tell)  
 encontrar (to find; to meet)  
 morir (to die)  
 poder (to be able to; “can”)  
 recordar (to remember)  
 volver (to return)  
 devolver (to return something)  
*jugar (to play) (u:ue)*

### 2. e:ie

pensar (e:ie)-to think	
<b>pienso</b>	pensamos
<b>piensas</b>	pensáis
<b>piensa</b>	piensan

#### Other important (e:ie) verbs:

empezar (to begin)  
 entender (to understand)  
 perder (to lose)  
 querer (to want; to love)  
 preferir (to prefer)  
 referir (to refer)  
 confesar (to confess)  
 tener (to have)—yo tengo (irr. yo)  
 venir (to come)—yo vengo (irr. yo)

### 3. e:i

servir (e:i)-to serve	
<b>sirvo</b>	servimos
<b>sirves</b>	servís
<b>sirve</b>	sirven

#### Other important (e:i) verbs:

pedir (to ask for)  
 repetir (to repeat)  
 medir (to measure)  
 servir (to serve)  
 decir (to say)—yo digo (irr. yo)

## Irregular yo-form verbs

There is also a category of verbs in Spanish that only changes in the yo-form. All other forms of the verb are formed according to the regular pattern, as in the example below:

salir (to leave)	
<b>salgo</b>	salimos
<b>sales</b>	salís
<b>sale</b>	salen

All other forms of the verb are regular. Only the yo-form exception needs to be learned. The following verbs follow this pattern, with their irregular yo-forms given:

poner (to put): yo pongo  
 traer (to bring): yo traigo  
 hacer (to do or make): yo hago  
 conocer (to know someone): yo conozco  
 saber (to know something): yo sé  
 ver (to see): yo veo  
 dar (to give): yo doy  
 parecer (to seem): yo parezco  
 conducir (to drive): yo conduzco  
 tener (to have): yo tengo (*also stem-changes*)  
 venir (to come): yo vengo (*also stem-changes*)  
 decir (to say): yo digo (*also stem-changes*)

For more practice on stem-changing and irregular yo-form verbs, visit the following:

<http://www.studyspanish.com/tutorial.htm>  
 (exercises 28-30, 50)  
<http://www.conjuguemos.com> (exercises 2-3)  
[http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/exercises/présent\\_tense.html](http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/exercises/présent_tense.html)