



VERB CONJUGATION ESSENTIALS (PRESENT TENSE)



A few basic concepts:

To conjugate: means to change a verb from its infinitive form so that it matches with the subject in a sentence.

Infinitives: are the verbs in their basic form, without the subject (that is, before we conjugate them). There are 3 types of infinitives in Spanish: -AR, -ER & -IR.

Infinitives are made up of two parts: the ending and the stem. In the following examples, the stem is underlined and the ending is in red:

trabajar

comer

vivir

Regular Verbs:

When you conjugate regular verbs, the stem stays the same and the ending changes depending on the subject:

	trabajar	comer	vivir
YO	TRABAJO	COMO	VIVO
TÚ	TRABAJAS	COMES	VIVES
ÉL/ELLA/USTED	TRABAJA	COME	VIVE
NOSOTROS	TRABAJAMOS	COMEMOS	VIVIMOS
VOSOTROS	TRABAJÁIS	COMÉIS	VIVÍS
ELLOS/USTEDES	TRABAJAN	COMEN	VIVEN

Irregular Verbs:

As the name suggests, irregular verbs are verbs that don't follow the same pattern as regular verbs. In the present tense, there are four main types of irregular verbs:

1

Totally Irregular Verbs: just memorize these: 😊

	ser	estar	ir
YO	SOY	ESTOY	VOY
TÚ	ERES	ESTÁS	VAS
ÉL/ELLA/USTED	ES	ESTÁ	VA
NOSOTROS	SOMOS	ESTAMOS	VAMOS
VOSOTROS	SOIS	ESTÁIS	VAIS
ELLOS/USTEDES	SON	ESTÁN	VAN

2

Verbs with an irregular "yo" conjugation: these verbs are completely regular except for the first person singular (YO).

	poner	dar	hacer
YO	PON GO	DO Y	HAG O
TÚ	PONES	DAS	HACES
ÉL/ELLA/USTED	PONE	DA	HACE
NOSOTROS	PONEMOS	DAMOS	HACEMOS
VOSOTROS	PONÉIS	DAIS	HACÉIS
ELLOS/USTEDES	PONEN	DAN	HACEN

Other examples: caer (YO caigo), saber (YO sé), traer (YO traigo), conocer (YO conozco) and salir (YO salgo)...

3

Stem-Changing Verbs: these verbs use the same endings as regular -AR, -ER, and -IR verbs when conjugated, but also undergo a vowel change in the last syllable of the stem. There are four groups of stem-changing verbs:

O → UE

dormir

DUERMO
DUERMES
DUERME
DORMIMOS
DORMÍS
DUERMEN

E → IE

querer

QUIERO
QUIERES
QUIERE
QUEREMOS
QUERÉIS
QUIEREN

E → I

pedir

PIDO
PIDES
PIDE
PEDIMOS
PEDÍS
PIDEN

U → UE

jugar*

JUEGO
JUEGAS
JUEGA
JUGAMOS
JUGÁIS
JUEGAN

Important: the change happens in all forms except NOSOTROS and VOSOTROS./ *Jugar is the only verb in this group.



See the appendix for the full list of stem-changing verbs.

4

Mixed irregular verbs: these verbs are both irregular in the first person singular (YO) and stem-changing:

venir

VENGO
VIENES
VIENE
VENIMOS
VENÍS
VIENEN

decir

DIGO
DICES
DICE
DECIMOS
DECÍS
DICEN

tener

TENGO
TIENES
TIENE
TENEMOS
TENÉIS
TIENEN

oír*

OIGO
OYES
OYE
OÍMOS
OÍS
OYEN

Oír is considered a mixed irregular even though it doesn't undergo the same changes as stem-changing verbs.

5

Verbs that add a "y": this smaller group is comprised of verbs ending in -UIR:

	construir	incluir	huir
YO	CONSTRUYO	INCLUYO	HUYO
TÚ	CONSTRUYES	INCLUYES	HUYES
ÉL/ELLA/USTED	CONSTRUYE	INCLUYE	HUYE
NOSOTROS	CONSTRUIMOS	INCLUIMOS	HUIMOS
VOSOTROS	CONSTRUÍS	INCLUÍS	HUÍS
ELLOS/USTEDES	CONSTRUYEN	INCLUYEN	HUYEN

Important: As you can see, the change happens in all forms except NOSOTROS and VOSOTROS.

Other examples: sustituir, atribuir...

APPENDIX:

Stem-Changing Verbs:

O → UE

DORMIR (to sleep)
PODER (can/to be able to)
SOÑAR con (to dream about)
MORIR (to die)
RECORDAR (to remember)
CONTAR (to count)
VOLVER (to return)
ENCONTRAR (to find)
COSTAR (to cost)
DOLER (to hurt)
MOVER (to move)
PROBAR (to try)
ALMORZAR (to have lunch)
APROBAR (to approve of)
MOSTRAR (to show)
COLGAR (to hang)
DEVOLVER (to return -an object)
SONAR (to sound, to ring)
TOSTAR (to toast)
MORDER (to bite)
VOLAR (to fly)
ACOSTAR (to lay down, to put to sleep)

E → IE

MENTIR (to lie)
QUERER (to want, to love)
CERRAR (to close)
SENTIR (to feel)
CALENTAR (to heat up)
EMPEZAR (to begin)
COMENZAR (to begin)
PERDER (to lose)
ENTENDER (to understand)
PREFERIR (to prefer)
DESPERTAR (to wake)
ENCENDER (to turn on)
PENSAR en (to think about)
SUGERIR (to suggest)
ACERTAR (to get right)
ADVERTIR (to warn)
HERVIR (to boil)
CONSENTIR (to consent)
NEGAR (to deny)
DEFENDER (to defend)
REGAR (to water)

E → I

PEDIR (to ask for)
ELEGIR* (to choose)
REPETIR (to repeat)
MEDIR (to measure)
REÍR (to laugh)
SERVIR (to serve)
SEGUIR* (to continue, to follow)
DESPEDIR (to dismiss, to fire)
SONREÍR (to smile)
IMPEDIR (to impede)
COMPETIR (to compete)
CONSEGUIR (to obtain)
CORREGIR (to correct)
PERSEGUIR (to pursue)
FREÍR (to fry)
VESTIR (to wear)

*With a spelling change for YO: YO elijo, YO sigo