

Name:

Guided Notes: Stem-Changing Verbs

There are certain types of verbs that do not follow normal present-tense conjugation patterns. These so-called _____ verbs still follow a pattern though. We will start with two cases where the “stem” of the verb changes into something else during the conjugation process.

1. U → UE

In just one verb, “jugar,” the stem “u” changes to “ue” during the process of conjugation:

Jugar = _____

yo	nosotros
tú	vosotros
él, ella usted	ellos ustedes

Notice that the stem change only occurs in the singular conjugations, and in third person plural. Because we can roughly draw the shape of a boot around these boxes, we call stem-changing verbs _____. Notice that apart from the stem-change, the endings are just like other -AR verbs.

** Jugar + a + sport = To play a sport → Juego al tenis. (I play tennis.)

2. E → IE

In the verb “pensar,” we consider the “e” as the stem. Let’s look at how the “e” changes when we conjugate. We can see the “boot” pattern again with these verbs, and after the stem change, the normal endings occur depending on the ending of the verb in the infinitive.

Pensar = _____

yo	nosotros
tú	vosotros
él, ella usted	ellos ustedes

Other verbs follow this pattern:

Querer = _____

yo	nosotros
tú	vosotros
él, ella usted	ellos ustedes

Entender = _____

yo	nosotros
tú	vosotros
él, ella usted	ellos ustedes

Venir = _____

yo	nosotros
tú	vosotros
él, ella usted	ellos ustedes

****We call this a partial boot verb, because the “yo” form is irregular (this verb is similar to “tener”)**

Other E→IE Verbs: cerrar (to close); empezar (to begin); merendar (to have a snack); preferir (to prefer); perder (to lose); hervir (to boil); encender (to light; to turn on); mentir (to lie); sentir (to feel); recomendar (to recommend); sugerir (to suggest)

****The stem-change will occur on the second to last syllable.**

3. E→I

The stem of the verb (e) undergoes a change during conjugation and becomes (i) in the singular forms and the third-person plural form.

Pedir = _____

yo	nosotros
tú	vosotros
él, ella usted	ellos ustedes

Decir = _____

yo	nosotros
tú	vosotros
él, ella usted	ellos ustedes

Other E→I Verbs: servir (to serve); repetir (to repeat); competir (to compete); medir (to measure); vestir (to dress)

4. O → UE

The stem of the verb (o) undergoes a change during conjugation and becomes (ue) in the singular forms and the third-person plural form.

Poder = _____

yo	nosotros
tú	vosotros
él, ella usted	ellos ustedes

Other O→UE Verbs: dormir (to sleep); contar (to count); almorzar (to have lunch); costar (to cost); devolver (to return an item); encontrar (to find); recordar (to remember); volver (to return, to go back)