

# Stem-Changing Verbs, Part I

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A dark blue diagonal graphic that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the slide.

There are certain types of verbs that do not follow normal present-tense conjugation patterns. These so-called “stem-changing” 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.

U → UE



# Jugar (Present Tense) To play (a sport or game)

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

|                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (yo)<br><b>juego</b>                  | (nosotros)<br><b>jugamos</b>          |
| (tú)<br><b>juegas</b>                 | (vosotros)<br><b>jugáis</b>           |
| (él, ella)<br>(usted)<br><b>juega</b> | (ellos)<br>(ustedes)<br><b>juegan</b> |

# Jugar (Present Tense)

## To play (a sport or game)

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 “boot verbs.” Notice that apart from the stem-change, the endings are just like other -AR verbs.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| (yo)<br><b>jue<u>go</u></b>                  | (nosotros)<br><b>jug<u>amos</u></b>          |
| (tú)<br><b>jue<u>gas</u></b>                 | (vosotros)<br><b>jug<u>áis</u></b>           |
| (él, ella)<br>(usted)<br><b>jue<u>ga</u></b> | (ellos)<br>(ustedes)<br><b>jue<u>gan</u></b> |

$E \rightarrow IE$



# Pensar (Present Tense)

## To think

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.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| (yo)<br><b>pienso</b> <u>o</u>                  | (nosotros)<br><b>pensamos</b> <u>o</u>          |
| (tú)<br><b>piensas</b> <u>o</u>                 | (vosotros)<br><b>pensáis</b> <u>o</u>           |
| (él, ella)<br>(usted)<br><b>piensa</b> <u>o</u> | (ellos)<br>(ustedes)<br><b>piensan</b> <u>o</u> |

# Querer (Present Tense)

## To want

|  |  |
|--|--|
| (yo)<br><b>quiero</b>                  | (nosotros)<br><b>queremos</b>          |
| (tú)<br><b>quieres</b>                 | (vosotros)<br><b>queréis</b>           |
| (él, ella)<br>(usted)<br><b>quiere</b> | (ellos)<br>(ustedes)<br><b>quieren</b> |



# Entender (Present Tense)

## To understand

|   |   |
|---|---|
| (yo)<br><b>enti<u>e</u>ndo</b>                  | (nosotros)<br><b>ent<u>e</u>ndemos</b>          |
| (tú)<br><b>enti<u>e</u>ndes</b>                 | (vosotros)<br><b>ent<u>e</u>ndéis</b>           |
| (él, ella)<br>(usted)<br><b>enti<u>e</u>nde</b> | (ellos)<br>(ustedes)<br><b>enti<u>e</u>nden</b> |

# Venir (Present Tense)

To come

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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| (yo)<br><b>ven<u>go</u></b>                  | (nosotros)<br><b>ven<u>imos</u></b>          |
| (tú)<br><b>vi<u>enes</u></b>                 | (vosotros)<br><b>ven<u>ís</u></b>            |
| (él, ella)<br>(usted)<br><b>vi<u>ene</u></b> | (ellos)<br>(ustedes)<br><b>vi<u>enen</u></b> |

**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.