

Stem-Changing Verbs & Verbs With Spelling Changes

Stem-changing verbs ending in **-ar**, **-er**, and **-ir**

- Stem-changing verbs that end in **-ar** or **-er** change the stem vowel in the present tense in two possible ways: **e > ie** and **o > ue** in all forms except *nosotros* and *vosotros*.
- Stem-changing verbs that end in **-ir** change the vowel stem in the following way: **e > i** in all forms except *nosotros* and *vosotros*

querer quiero	<i>to want, love</i> queremos	volver vuelve	<i>to return</i> volvemos	pedir <i>to ask for</i> pido	pedimos
quieres	queréis	vuelves	volvéis	pides	pedís
quiere	quieren	vuelve	vuelven	pide	piden
pensar pienso	<i>to think</i> pensamos	poder puedo	<i>to be able to</i> podemos		
piensas	pensáis	puedes	podéis		
piensa	piensan	puede	pueden		

Some common verbs that pattern like **querer** and **pensar** (**e > ie**):

atender	<i>to assist</i>	defender	<i>to defend</i>	mentir	<i>to lie</i>
cerrar	<i>to close</i>	despertar (se)	<i>to wake up</i>	preferir	<i>to prefer</i>
comenzar/ empezar	<i>to begin</i>	divertir (se)	<i>to have a good time</i>	perder	<i>to lose</i>
confesar	<i>to confess</i>	encerrar	<i>to lock up</i>	recomendar	<i>to recommend</i>
convertir	<i>to convert</i>	encender	<i>to light</i>	sentar (se)	<i>to seat, sit down</i>
		entender	<i>to understand</i>	sentir (se)	<i>to regret, feel</i>
		gobernar	<i>to govern</i>	*nevar	<i>to snow</i>

Some common verbs that pattern like **volver** and **poder** (**o > ue**):

acordarse	<i>to remember</i>	demostrar	<i>to show</i>	oler (o > hue)	<i>to smell</i>
acostar (se)	<i>to put to bed, go to bed</i>	devolver	<i>to give back, return</i>	probar (se)	<i>to try, taste, try on</i>
almorzar	<i>to eat lunch</i>	doler	<i>to hurt, ache</i>	recordar	<i>to remember</i>
colgar	<i>to hang (ex. clothing)</i>	dormir	<i>to sleep</i>	resolver	<i>to solve</i>
contar	<i>to count, tell</i>	encontrar	<i>to light</i>	soler	<i>to be accustomed to</i>
costar	<i>to cost</i>	jugar (u > ue)	<i>to play</i>	volar	<i>to fly</i>
		mostrar	<i>to show</i>	volver	<i>to return</i>

Note that **jugar** has the stem change **u >ue** and that **oler** has the change **o > hue**: **Ex: Huele bien.** *It smells good.*

* Impersonal verbs; conjugated only in the third-person singular.

*Some common verbs that pattern like **pedir** (e>i)*

servir to serve **seguir** to follow **vestir(se)** to dress, to get dressed **repetir** to repeat

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