



### SP14: Stem-Changing Verbs

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC Spanish Tutoring website](#). Find your DLA number to see all the resources to finish your DLA.

#### Learning Outcomes: You will be able to...

- ✓ Identify stem-changing verbs.
- ✓ Conjugate stem-changing verbs.

#### Section 1: Form

- ❖ **Three Categories:** There is a group of verbs in Spanish called *stem-changing verbs*. These verbs have an irregular conjugation in the present tense. This group is divided into three categories:
  - e → ie            cerrar (*to close*), querer (*to want*), preferir (*to prefer*), pensar (*to think*), venir (*to come*)
  - o → ue            poder (*to be able*), dormir (*to sleep*), volver (*to come back, to return*)
  - e → i             pedir (*to ask for*), servir (*to serve*), vestir (*to dress/to wear*)
- ❖ Remember that the stem vowels are stressed in all forms of the present, except in the **nosotros** and the **vosotros** forms. The stem vowel changes in all the stressed syllables; **e** changes to **ie**, **o** changes to **ue**, and **e** changes to **i** in all the stressed syllables.
- ❖ You may recall that the vowel in the stem of the verbs **tener** and **venir** changes from **e** to **ie** in the forms for **tú, Ud/ él /ella** and **Uds./ellos/ellas**. In addition to changes in these forms, stem-changing verbs have the same stem change in the **yo** form as well.
 

**Remember:** Despite the stem change, the endings are regular, following the pattern for -AR, -ER, and -IR verbs.

- ❖ These are some commonly used stem-changing verbs:

e → ie		
cerrar	entender	preferir
comenzar	obtener	querer
despertarse	pensar	tener
empezar	perder	venir





o → ue

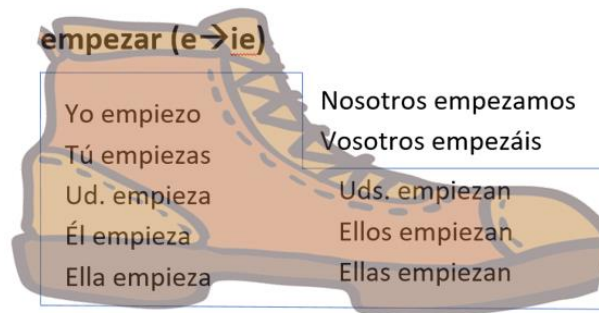
acostarse	dormir	recordar
almorzar	encontrar	soler + infinitive
contar	jugar (change u → ue)	soñar
costar	poder	volver

e → i

conseguir	pedir	seguir
medir	repetir	servir

**Note:** These verbs also change stem in the “yo” form.

The conjugation of these verbs resembles a boot, everything inside the boot changes and everything outside the boot remains regular.



Section 2: Practice 1

❖ Using the boot, conjugate these three stem-changing verbs. Use the example above as a guide.

**cerrar (e → ie)**

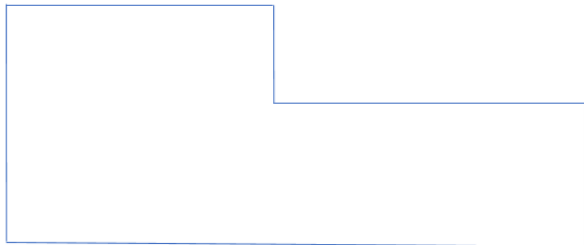
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**preferir (e → ie)**

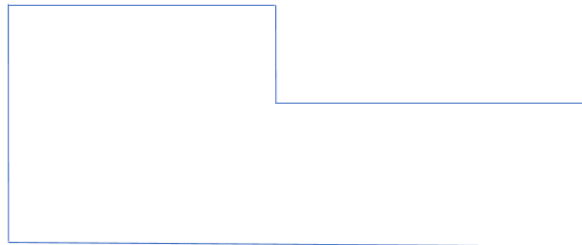
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**dormir (o→ue)**



**pedir (e→i)**



**Section 3: Practice 2**

❖ Complete the following statements using the appropriate phrase from the list below. ***Don't forget to conjugate the stem-changing verbs!***

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a. pedir la cuenta                       | d. repetir las explicaciones     |
| b. seguir las instrucciones del profesor | e. servir el café a los clientes |
| c. c. vestir formalmente                 | f. dormir mucho                  |

1. Los niños pequeños \_\_\_\_\_.
2. El cliente \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Los profesores \_\_\_\_\_.
4. El hombre de negocios se \_\_\_\_\_.
5. El estudiante \_\_\_\_\_.
6. El mesero \_\_\_\_\_.





Section 4: Stem Changing Dictionary

A. Do you know the Spanish words for the following verbs? Hint: They are all stem-changing verbs! Fill in any Spanish words that you know. If you don't know the words, look them up at [SpanishDict.com](http://SpanishDict.com).

to think/plan \_\_\_\_\_

to follow/continue \_\_\_\_\_

to lie \_\_\_\_\_

to choose \_\_\_\_\_

to prefer \_\_\_\_\_

to lose \_\_\_\_\_

to play \_\_\_\_\_

to fly \_\_\_\_\_

to taste/to try \_\_\_\_\_

to start/begin \_\_\_\_\_

to serve \_\_\_\_\_

to start/begin (another word)

to close \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

to die \_\_\_\_\_

to prevent \_\_\_\_\_

to repeat \_\_\_\_\_

to smile \_\_\_\_\_

to feel \_\_\_\_\_

to laugh \_\_\_\_\_

to measure \_\_\_\_\_

to cost \_\_\_\_\_

to wish/want \_\_\_\_\_

to count \_\_\_\_\_

to sleep \_\_\_\_\_

to hurt \_\_\_\_\_

to return \_\_\_\_\_

to ask for \_\_\_\_\_





## Spanish Self-Directed Learning Activities

Language Learning Center, *Passport Rewards*

SP14: Stem-Changing Verbs

**B.** Choose 8 of the stem-changing verbs from Part A above and write about things you and/or your family do every day. Make sure to use simple present tense, and don't forget about the stem change.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.





Section 5: Practice with a tutor!

**GOOD job!** Now [make an appointment for Spanish Tutoring on the LLC website.](#)

Before your appointment, please [fill out the sign-in sheet.](#)

When it is time for your appointment, meet your tutor in the [Virtual LLC.](#)

Possible Points	 Pass	 Not Yet Pass
<b>Completion</b>	The student completed all of the sections of the DLA.	The student has not yet completed all of the section of the DLA.
<b>Comprehension/ Metacognition</b>	The student can effectively explain the concepts and skills learned in the DLA.	The student cannot yet effectively explain the concepts and skills learned in the DLA.
<b>Course Connections</b>	The student can explain the connections between their coursework and the DLA.	The student cannot yet explain a connection between their course and DLA.

**Students must succeed in all criteria to pass this DLA.**

**Verification of completion:** If you successfully complete this DLA with the tutor, you will receive a stamp on your digital passport. An updated copy of your passport will be emailed to you 1-2 business days after your tutoring appointment.

