

Present Tense (ie) Stem-Changing Verbs

There are several verbs in Spanish that are called Stem-Changing Verbs. In this case, some verbs that have an “e” will make a stem-change to “ie”. Not all verbs that have an “e” are stem-changing verbs. We will only know that they are by having experience with the language, or if I tell you that they are. Many dictionaries will put the (ie) in parenthesis to show that they are stem-changing verbs. I will normally show this whenever we have a vocabulary list with a stem-changing verb. Example: pensar (ie), preferir (ie)

Stem-changing verbs will have two changes when we are conjugating the verb or telling who is doing the action of the verb. The first change will be in the stem or beginning part of the verb. The second change will be when we put the normal ending on by crossing off the AR, ER, or IR. An important rule is that we never stem-change the “nosotros or vosotros forms of the verb. They will always keep the “e”.

(ie) Stem-Changing Verbs Pensar (ie)= to think, to plan

Yo pienso	Nosotros pensamos
Tú piensas	Nosotras pensamos
Él piensa	Vosotros pensáis
Ella piensa	Vosotras pensáis
Usted piensa	Ellos piensan
(it) piensa	Ellas piensan
Name piensa	Ustedes piensan

A nickname that they have for this type of verb is a “Shoe Verb” or a “Boot Verb”!

Here are some common (ie) Stem-Changing Verbs: cerrar (ie), comenzar (ie), empezar (ie), entender (ie), perder (ie), querer (ie), sentar (ie), encender (ie), confesar (ie)

Act. 1: Conjugate the following (ie) Stem-Changing Verbs!

1. Yo cerrar (ie)
2. Tú comenzar (ie)
3. Él empezar (ie)
11. Tú cerrar (ie)
12. Usted comenzar (ie)
13. Nosotras empezar (ie)

4. Nosotros entender (ie)
5. Ellos pensar (ie)
6. Yo perder (ie)
7. Tú querer (ie)
8. Ella sentar (ie)
9. Nosotros encender (ie)
10. Ellas confesar (ie)

14. Ellos entender (ie)
15. Yo pensar (ie)
16. Tú perder (ie)
17. Él querer (ie)
18. Nosotros sentar (ie)
19. Ustedes encender (ie)
20. Yo confesar (ie)