

Present Tense (ue) Stem-Changing Verbs

There are several verbs in Spanish that are called Stem-Changing Verbs. In this case, some verbs that have an “o” will make a stem-change to “ue”. Not all verbs that have an “o” 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 (ue) 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: Volver (ue), encontrar (ue)

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 “o or u with jugar”.

(ie) Stem-Changing Verbs Volver (ue)= to return

Yo vuelvo	Nosotros volvemos
Tú vuelves	Nosotras volvemos
Él vuelve	Vosotros volvéis
Ella vuelve	Vosotras volvéis
Usted vuelve	Ellos vuelven
(it) vuelve	Ellas vuelven
Name vuelve	Ustedes vuelven

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: Volver (ue), encontrar (ue), contar (ue), jugar (ue), volar (ue), mostrar (ue), poder (ue), probar (ue), recordar (ue), soñar (ue)

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

1. Yo volver (ue)
2. Tú encontrar (ue)
3. Él contar (ue)
11. Tú volver (ue)
12. Usted encontrar (ue)
13. Nosotras contar (ue)

4. Nosotros jugar (ue)
5. Ellos volar (ue)
6. Yo mostrar (ue)
7. Tú poder (ue)
8. Ella probar (ue)
9. Nosotros recordar (ue)
10. Ellas soñar (ue)

14. Ustedes jugar (ue)
15. Yo volar (ue)
16. Tú mostrar (ue)
17. Él poder (ue)
18. Nosotros probar (ue)
19. Ellos recordar (ue)
20. Yo soñar (ue)