



Lesson 20

STEM VERBS - IE

Part 1



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”.



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(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



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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)



1 yo cerrar (ie)	cierro	11 tú cerrar (ie)	cierras
2 tú comenzar (ie)	comienzas	12 Usted comenzar (ie)	comienza
3 él empezar (ie)	empieza	13 nosotras empezar (ie)	empezamos
4 nosotros entender (ie)	entendemos	14 ellos entender (ie)	entienden
5 ellos pensar (ie)	piensan	15 yo pensar (ie)	pienso
6 yo perder (ie)	pierdo	16 tú perder (ie)	pierdes
7 tú querer (ie)	quieres	17 él querer (ie)	quiere
8 ella sentar (ie)	sienta	18 nosotros sentar (ie)	sentamos
9 nosotros encender (ie)	encendemos	19 Ustedes encender (ie)	encienden
10 ellas confesar (ie)	confiesan	20 yo confesar (ie)	confieso

