

## Verb Review II: Stem-changers, Backward Verbs, Object Pronouns

### Stem-Changing Verbs

Have you noticed that there are certain verbs that we haven't practiced in the *nosotros* form? Look at the old verb list, and notice that all of the infinitives in those verbs seem to have a vowel missing. These are called stem-changing verbs. We need to start looking at them from the point-of-view of starting with the infinitive. From that perspective, there are actually vowels being *added* to most of the conjugated forms.

#### How to conjugate *-ie* stem-changing verbs:

Conjugate as usual, but change the stressed vowel in the stem to *ie*. With *nosotros*, there is no stem-change. Notice that it always the stressed vowel that changes—in a word with two vowels in the stem, this is important. This also explains why the *nosotros* form does not change; because the *stress is in the ending*.

##### **-ar verbs:** *cerrar*

yo	<b>cierro</b>	nosotros	<b>cerramos</b>
tú	<b>cierras</b>		
él		ellos	
ella	<b>cierra</b>	ellas	<b>cierran</b>
Ud.		Uds.	

##### **-er verbs:** *querer*

yo	<b>quiero</b>	nosotros	<b>queremos</b>
tú	<b>quieres</b>		
él		ellos	
ella	<b>quiere</b>	ellas	<b>quieren</b>
Ud.		Uds.	

##### **-ir verbs:** *preferir*

yo	<b>prefiero</b>	nosotros	<b>preferimos</b>
tú	<b>prefieres</b>		
él		ellos	
ella	<b>prefiere</b>	ellas	<b>prefieren</b>
Ud.		Uds.	

#### **e>ie Stem-Changers**

cerrar	to close	pensar	to think
comenzar (a + infinitive)	to begin (to)	perder	to lose
empezar (a + infinitive)	to begin (to)	preferir	to prefer
entender	to understand	querer	to want
mentir	to lie	sentir	to feel, to regret

#### How to conjugate *-ue* stem-changing verbs:

Instead of replacing an *e* with *ie*, replace an *o* or *u* with a *ue*: *dormir*>*duermo*, *contar*>*cuentas*, *volver*>*vuelve*

#### **o>ue (or u>ue) Stem-Changers**

contar	to count; to tell	morir	to die
costar	to cost	mostrar	to show
devolver	to return (an item)	poder	to be able
dormir	to sleep	recordar	to remember
encontrar	to find	volver	to return (to a place)
jugar	to play (w/game, ex. <i>jugar al voleibol</i> )	doler	to hurt

### **-go verbs**

You may have noticed that many of the irregulars you have learned have a *-go* on the end of the *yo* form. These belong to a group of verbs often called the “*-go* verbs”. These fit into three categories:

**I.** In the first group, the *yo* form is the only form that is irregular; the rest of the forms are exactly what you'd expect.

		<b>yo</b>
<b>traer</b>	to bring	<i>traigo</i>
<b>poner</b>	to put	<i>pongo</i>
<b>salir</b>	to leave	<i>salgo</i>
<b>caer</b>	to fall	<i>caigo</i>
<b>hacer</b>	to do, make	<i>hago</i>

**II.** In the second group, there's a vowel change in the stem in all forms but the *nosotros*.

<b>tener</b>	to have	<b>venir</b>	to come
tengo	tenemos	vengo	venimos
tienes		viene	
tiene	tienen	viene	vienen
<b>decir</b>	to say, tell		
digo	decimos		
dices			
dice	dicen		

**III.** The final *-go* verb that we're learning is in a class by itself—totally irregular: **oír** to hear

oigo	oímos
oyes	
oye	oyen

## Backward Verbs (see list in box lower right)

I call these verbs “backward verbs” because from an English speaker’s point of view, they’re backwards. We have already discussed the fact that in Spanish, it’s impossible to say “I like tacos.” Instead, we say “Tacos please me”. Notice that in English, the subject (the person or thing doing the action) is “I”—I like tacos. In Spanish, it seems backwards. The subject is “tacos”—*Tacos* please me. This is expressed:

*Me gustan los tacos.*

In these sentences, you can’t think like English—you have to **understand what the subject is in the Spanish sentence**. If you understand that *los tacos* is the subject, it makes two things clear: 1. There’s no *yo*, because “I” is not the subject and, 2. *gustan* has **-an** on the end, because *gustar* has to be conjugated (like all verbs) with the subject “los tacos” (plural). Naturally, it requires the “they” form.

There’s one other thing to notice: In Spanish, when talking about things in general, “the” (*el, la, los, or las*) is used. That’s why there’s a *los* in the sentence above.

**Backward Verb Examples:** In each example, notice the “the”, and that plural subjects get plural verbs.

I like soup./Soup pleases (to) me. *Me gusta la sopa.* We like soup./Soup pleases (to) us. *Nos gusta la sopa.*

I love dogs./Dogs enchant (to) me. *Me encantan los perros.* He loves dogs. *Le encantan los perros.*

Languages bore (to) me. *Me aburren las lenguas.* Languages bore (to) him. *Le aburren las lenguas.*

My stomach hurts./The stomach hurts (to) me. *Me duele el estómago.*

My feet hurt./The feet hurt (to) me. *Me duelen los pies.*

You’re interested in volleyball./Volleyball interests (to) you. *Te interesa el voleibol,*

I like them (as friends)./They fall on me well. *Me caen bien.*

She likes me (romantically)./I please her. *Le gusto.*

### To clarify:

She (or he) is interested in volleyball/Volleyball interests (to) her (or him) *Le interesa el voleibol.*

Adriana is interested in volleyball./Volleyball interests (to) Adriana. *A Adriana le interesa el voleibol.*

## The Pronouns

When we use the backward verbs, we use them with *indirect object pronouns*. Indirect objects usually answer the question “to whom” or “for whom” after the verb. Notice in the last example that *A*, meaning “to” is included in front of Adriana to show that she’s the indirect object. With indirect object pronouns in Spanish, the “to” or “for” is included in the pronoun.

**Indirect Object Pronouns** (*to whom, for whom* after verb)

**me:** *to/for me*

**nos:** *to/for us*

**te:** *to/for you*

**le:** *to/for it, him, her, you (formal)*

**les:** *to/for them, to/for you all (formal)*

### Backward Verbs

aburrir *to bore*

encantar *to enchant*

gustar *to please*

doler (ue) *to hurt*

interesar *to interest*

fascinar *to fascinate*

molestar *to bother*

quedar *to fit*

importar *to matter*

caer bien *to fall well*

## Verbs that require a direct object:

acostar\_\_ (o-ue) *to put* \_\_\_\_ *to bed*

arreglar\_\_ *to arrange, straighten* \_\_ *up*

afeitar\_\_ *to shave* \_\_\_\_

bañar\_\_ *to bathe* \_\_\_\_

duchar\_\_ *to shower* \_\_\_\_

cepillar\_\_ *to brush* \_\_\_\_

despertar\_\_ (e-ie) *to wake* \_\_\_\_ *up*

divertir\_\_ (e-ie) *to divert* \_\_\_\_

lavar\_\_ *to wash* \_\_\_\_

secar\_\_ *to dry* \_\_\_\_

levantar\_\_ *to raise/lift* \_\_\_\_

llamar\_\_ *to call* \_\_\_\_

maquillar\_\_ *to make* \_\_\_\_ *up*

mirar\_\_ *to look at* \_\_\_\_

peinar\_\_ *to comb* \_\_\_\_

sentar\_\_ (e-ie) *to seat* \_\_\_\_

vestir\_\_ (e-i) *to dress* \_\_\_\_

## Direct Object Pronouns (*who* or *what* after verb)

**me:** *me*

**nos:** *us*

**te:** *you (inf.)*

**lo, la:** *it, him, her, you (formal)*

**los, las:** *them, you all (form.)*

**se:** *itself, himself, herself, yourself*

**se:** *themselves, yourselves (form.)*