

Repaso: Stem Changing Verbs

A.K.A. Boot Verbs

When you see an **infinitive** followed by **letters in parentheses**, it shows that you are dealing with a **stem changing verb**. Ex: cerrar (ie)

Stem changing verbs conjugate just like regular verbs, with one extra little twist. Let's review the steps for conjugating a regular -AR, -ER, or -IR verb.

1. **cross off the infinitive ending (ar, er, ir)**
> **change the stem (substitute the vowels)**
2. **put the stem in all the rooms**
3. **add the furniture**

Now for the extra twist—it comes between step 1 and 2. Add it to your notes above. As the name of these verbs suggests, you **change the stem** (but only in 4 of the 6 forms).

cerrar(ie)=to close	
★ cierr <u>o</u>	cerr <u>amos</u>
★ cierr <u>as</u>	cerr <u>áis</u>
★ cierr <u>a</u>	★ cierr <u>an</u>

to volver(ue)=return	
★ vuelv	volv
★ vuelv	volv
★ vuelv	★ vuelv

Common stem change patterns for Spanish verbs are:

E → **ie**

O →

U →

When the STEM of an infinitive has TWO vowels, you make the stem change letter substitution with the vowel CLOSEST to the infinitive ending.

Ejemplos: merendar (ie) (see below)

prefereir (ie)

to **snack** = merendar (ie)

· yo	mer <u>e</u> ndo	nosotros	merend <u>a</u> mos
· tú	mer <u>e</u> ndas	nosotras	merend <u>a</u> ís
usted (Ud.)		vosotros	
· él	mer <u>e</u> nda	vosotras	
· ella		ustedes (Uds.)	
		ellos	mer <u>e</u> ndan
		ellas	