

# Preterite: Part IV

In order to preserve the sound of the infinitive, a number of verbs change orthographically (spelling) in the preterite tense. The following changes occur in the “yo” form only:

Verbs that end in **-gar** change **g** to **gu**

Verbs that end in **-car** change **c** to **qu**

Verbs that end in **-zar** change **z** to **c**

Here are three examples:

**yo jugué** (jugar)

**yo busqué** (buscar)

**yo almorcé** (almorzar)

Some common orthographic changing verbs for the preterite tense in these categories are:

<b>-GAR</b>	<b>-CAR</b>	<b>-ZAR</b>
cegar	aparcar	almorzar
colgar	buscar	autorizar
jugar	clarificar	cazar
llegar	clasificar	comenzar
pagar	destacar	cruzar
plegar	empacar	empezar
regar	justificar	forzar
rogar	practicar	organizar
tragar	sacar	simbolizar
vagar	tocar	tropezarse

For verbs that end in **-aer**, **-eer**, **-oír**, and **-oer**, the él/ella/usted forms use the ending “**yó**” (rather than **ió**) and the third person plural uses the ending “**yeron**” (rather than **ieron**). The remaining forms gain a written accent over the letter “**i**.”

**creer**

creí

creíste

creyó

creímos

creísteis

creyeron

Other verbs like **creer** include:

caer

leer

oír

poseer

proveer

roer

Exceptions to this rule include:

traer  
atraer  
distrar

Verbs that end in -uir change in the same way, but the written accent over the letter "i" only occurs in the yo form.

**huir**

huí  
huiste  
huyó  
huimos  
huisteis  
huyeron

Other verbs like huir include:

construir  
contribuir  
destruir  
fluir  
incluir  
influir

The preterite has quite a few irregular verbs, so flashcards can really help you to master them:

Verb Flashcards

52. **preterite: creer, caer, leer, oír**

creí  
creíste  
creyó  
creímos  
creísteis  
creyeron

53. **preterite: huir, construir, contribuir, incluir**

huí  
huiste  
huyó  
huimos  
huisteis  
huyeron