

Stem-Changing Verbs: e:i

Remember, there are three types of infinitives: -ar, -er, -ir. Infinitives are made up of two parts: the ending and the stem. In the following examples, the stem is underlined and the ending is in bold.

habl**ar**
com**er**
viv**ir**

With regular verbs, the stem stays the same, and the ending changes as they are conjugated.

<u>habl</u> o	<u>com</u> o	<u>viv</u> o
<u>habl</u> as	<u>com</u> es	<u>viv</u> es
<u>habl</u> a	<u>com</u> e	<u>viv</u> e
<u>habl</u> amos	<u>com</u> emos	<u>viv</u> imos
<u>habl</u> áis	<u>com</u> éis	<u>viv</u> ís
<u>habl</u> an	<u>com</u> en	<u>viv</u> en

With some verbs, the stem also changes when you conjugate them. In the present tense, there are three groups of stem-changing verbs:

o:ue
e:ie
e:i

With the third group of stem-changing verbs, the letter e in the stem changes to i in all forms except the nosotros and vosotros.

repet**ir**

repit**o**
repit**es**
repit**e**

repet**imos**
repet**ís**

repit**en**

Here's another e:i stem changing verb. Compare it to the regular verb vivir. Notice that the endings are the same for regular verbs and stem-changing verbs.

compet**ir** (e:i)
vivir (regular -ir verb)

compit**o**
vivo

compites

vives

compite

vive

competimos

vivimos

competís

vivís

compiten

viven

Here's another e:i stem-changing verb. Notice how the stem doesn't change in the nosotros and vosotros forms.

pedir (e:i)

pido

pides

pide

pedimos

pedís

piden

Here is a list of common e:i stem-changing verbs.

bendecir* to bless
impedir to impede
colegir to deduce
maldecir* to curse
competir to compete
medir to measure
conseguir to get, obtain
pedir to ask for, to order
corregir to correct
perseguir to pursue, to persecute
decir* to say, tell
reír to laugh
despedir to dismiss, fire
repetir to repeat
elegir to elect
seguir to follow, continue
freír to fry
servir to serve
gemir to groan, moan
sonreír to smile

* NOTE: The verb "decir" and its derivative forms are irregular in the first person: yo digo, etc.

Let's add a flashcard for e:i stem-changers:

Verb Flashcards

14. e:i stem-changers (repetir)

repito
repites
repite
repetimos
repetís
repiten

(decir (yo digo), despedir, medir, pedir, servir)