

Stem-Changing Verbs: e:ie

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

cerrar

cierro
cierras
cierra

cerramos
cerráis

cierran

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

entender (e:ie)
comer (regular -er verb)

entiend**o**
com**o**

entiendes
comes

entiende
come

entendemos
comemos

entendéis
coméis

entienden
comen

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

mentir (e:ie)

miento
mientes
miente

mentimos
mentís

mienten

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

acertar to guess, get right
encender..... to light, kindle
advertir to advise, warn
entender to understand
cerrar to close, shut
fregar to scrub, wash dishes
comenzar to begin
hervir to boil
confesar to confess
mentir to lie
consentir to consent
negar to deny
convertir to convert
pensar (en)..... to think about
defender to defend
perder to lose
empezar..... to begin
preferir to prefer

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

Verb Flashcards

13. **e:ie stem-changers (cerrar)**

cierro
cierras
cierra
cerramos
cerráis
cierran

(comenzar, empezar, entender, pensar, perder, preferir)