

Los verbos irregulares en el pretérito

- 1) **Spelling Changes (-car, -gar, -zar)** - Verbs ending in -car, -gar, and -zar have a spelling change in the *yo* form in order to maintain the sound of the stem. (Z can never be followed by *E* or *I* in Spanish, hence the spelling change.)

buscar	busqué	c → qu
jugar, llegar	jugué, llegué	g → gu
almozar, empezar	almorcé, empecé	z → c

- 2) **Spelling Changes (“Super Y”)** - Whenever an *I* appears between two other vowels, the *I* becomes a *Y* in both the third person singular and plural forms.

caer	cayó/cayeron
construir	construyó/construyeron
leer	leí, leíste, leyó, leímos, leísteis, leyeron
oír	oyó/oyeron

- 3) **Stem-changes** - The only verbs that can have stem-changes in the preterit tense are certain *-ir* verbs that stem-change in the present tense. With these verbs, the vowel in the stem changes from *O* to *U* or from *E* to *I* in the third person forms. **(The most common of these “slipper verbs” tend to be verbs that stem-change from *E* to *I* in the present tense.)**

Conseguir, corregir, convertirse, despedirse, divertirse, dormirse, elegir, medir, morirse, pedir, perseguir, preferir, referirse, reir(se), repetir, seguir, sentirse, server, sugerir, and vestirse.

- 4) **Irregular stems** - The following verbs have irregular stems in the preterit tense:

conducir	conduj-
decir	dij-
introducir	introduj-
traducir	traduj-
traer	traj-
andar	anduv-
estar	estuv-
tener	tuv-
haber	hub-
poder	pud-
poner	pus-
querer	quis-
saber	sup-
venir	vin-

The endings for verbs with irregular stems in the preterit are :
(Notice -- no accents!)

-e
-iste
-o
-imos
-isteis
-(i)eron

Not *-ieron*, but *-eron* in the *ellos*, *ellas*, and *ustedes* form when preceded by the letter *j*.

ir/ser

fui	fuimos
fuiste	fuisteis
fue	fueron

dar

di	dimos
diste	disteis
dio	dieron