

Lesson 11 - Irregular Verbs in The Past Tense

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With the help of Spanishdict cuz irregular verbs are hard to explain by oneself.

Today, we will...

- ★ Learn How to Conjugate Irregular Verbs With The Past Tense

Before we begin....

- Make a sentence in your language that includes an irregular verb. What makes a verb irregular? Do you do anything special with it or must you memorize different conjugations of each verb? Discuss!

Stem-Changing -Ir Verbs

Irregular -ir verbs that go through stem changes in present tense conjugations also go through stem changes in preterite tense conjugations. The following conjugations will only work with the “Él”, “Ella” and “Ustedes” conjugations.

If the stem has “e”, it will be changed to “i”.

Ex: **S**entir (To feel) → Él **s**intió.

If the stem has “o”, it will be changed to “u”

Ex: **D**ormir (To sleep) → Ella **d**urmió.

For Sonreír and Reír, the conjugations will be (Él/Ella/Usted) sonrió and (Él/Ella/Usted) rio.

Verbs With “J” Preterite Stems

Most verbs that end in “-ducir” will get a special little change where the “c” in the ending changes into a “j”.

Ex 1: Traducir (To translate) → Yo traduje.

When it comes to the “Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes” conjugations, the conjugation ending would be “-eron” instead of “-ieron”.

Ex 2: Traducir → Ellos tradujeron.

All of these changes also apply to “Decir (to tell)” and “Traer (to bring)”

Ex 3: Traer → Yo traje.

Ex 4: Decir → Ellos dijeron.

Verbs With Stems That End In Vowels

Verbs that have a stem that ends in a vowel tend to go get an additional “y” when they are being conjugated into their “Él/Ella/Usted” and “Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes” forms. The “y” would go before the ending. Or, to put it more simply, you replace the “-ó” ending with “-yó” and “-eron” ending with “-yeron”.

Ex 1: Oír (to hear) → Ella oyó.

Ex 2: Leer (to read) → Ustedes leyeron.

If a verb ends in “-uir” (e.g. Construir), the accent disappears (it goes bye bye) in its Tú and Nosotros forms.

Verbs with “uv” Preterite Stems

There are a few chosen verbs (such as *estar*, *tener*, and *andar*) that go through this change.

All you do is add the “uv” between the stem and the ending.

Ex 1: *Estar* (to be) → Yo estuve.

The “-e” (in blue) is the normal “yo” ending. And “est-” is the stem. The “uv” (in red) goes in between the two.

For the verb “*Tener*” (to have), the “uv” will actually replace the “en” in the stem.

Ex 2: Él tuvo.

Verbs With “u” Preterite Stems

There are a few chosen verbs whose first syllable in the stem switch to “u”. Some of the verbs that go through this change are “Haber” (to have), “Poder” (to be able to), “Poner” (to put/to place), “Saber” (to know), and “Caber” (to fit).

Ex: Poder → Él pudo.

The verbs “Caber” (to fit) and “Saber” (to know), do get a little extra change where the “b” changes to a “p”.

Ex: Caber → Yo cupe.

For the verb “Poner” (to put/to place), you change the “n” to “s”.

Ex: Poner → Él puso.

Verbs With “i” Preterite Stems

Chosen verbs go through a change where their first vowel in the stem (second vowel for “Querer”) it changed into an “i”. Some of the verbs that go through this change are “Hacer” (to do), “Querer” (to want), and “Venir” (to come).

Ex 1: Ha**a**cer (to do) → Yo hi**i**ce.

The “Él/Ella/Usted” forms for “Hacer” need a change where you have a “z” in place of the “z”

Ex 2: Ha**a**cer (to do) → Ella hi**i**zo.

For the verb “Querer”, you must “r” from the stem into an “s” (for all forms).

Ex 3: Que**r**er → Nosotros qui**s**imos.

Very Irregular Verbs

There are 4 very irregular verbs which you must memorize the preterite conjugations of: “Ser” (to be), “Ir” (to go), “Dar” (to give), and “Ver” (to see).

Subject	Ser (to be)	Ir (to go)	Dar (to give)	Ver (to see)
Yo	fui	fui	di	vi
Tú	fuiste	fuiste	diste	viste
Él/Ella/Usted	fue	fue	dio	vio
Nosotros	fuimos	fuimos	dimos	vimos
Ellos/Ellas Ustedes	fueron	fueron	dieron	vieron

Practice - Translation

Translate the following sentences to Spanish.

1. She wanted to eat.
2. I saw her. (Hint: Use “la”)
3. They made cake.
4. We did it!
5. We translated irregular verbs! :D (Irregular verbs - Verbos irregulares.)

Any Questions?



¡Gracias y Adiós!

