The Present Participle—*El gerundio*

1. The present participle is formed by dropping the -**ar** of regular and stem-changing verbs and adding -**ando** and by dropping the -**er** and -**ir** of regular verbs and the -**er** of stem changers and adding -**iendo**. (For -**ir** stem changers, see point 2 below.)

> cerrar → cerr + ando → cerr**ando**
> correr → corr + iendo → corr**iendo**
> vivir → viv + iendo → viv**iendo**

2. The -**ir** stem changers have a change in the stem of the present participle. In dictionary listings, stem changers are followed by vowels in parentheses. The first vowel or vowels in parentheses indicate the change that occurs in the present indicative tense: **dormir** (<u>ue</u>, u), **vestirse** (<u>i</u>, i), **sentirse** (<u>ie</u>, i). The second vowel indicates the change that occurs in the present participle: **dormir** (ue, <u>u</u>), **vestirse** (i, <u>i</u>), **sentirse** (ie, <u>i</u>). (Also see the discussions of the preterit and present subjunctive.)

> dormir → d**u**rmiendo   vestirse → v**i**stiéndose*   sentirse → s**i**ntiendo

*Note: To review placement of object pronouns with present participles, see pages 378–380. To review accents, see page 382.

3. Verbs with stems ending in a vowel + -**er** or -**ir** (except a silent **u**, as in **seguir**) take a **y** instead of the **i** in the ending.

> construir → constru**y**endo

Common verbs that fit this pattern include the following.

> leer → le**y**endo   creer → cre**y**endo   oír → o**y**endo
> destruir → destru**y**endo   caer → ca**y**endo

The Preterit—*El pretérito*

A. Regular Forms

1. To form the preterit of regular -**ar**, -**er**, and -**ir** verbs and -**ar** and -**er** stem changers (but not -**ir** stem changers), drop the -**ar**, -**er**, or -**ir** ending of the infinitive and add the appropriate endings to the stem.

cerrar		vender		vivir	
cerr**é**	cerr**amos**	vend**í**	vend**imos**	viv**í**	viv**imos**
cerr**aste**	cerr**asteis**	vend**iste**	vend**isteis**	viv**iste**	viv**isteis**
cerr**ó**	cerr**aron**	vend**ió**	vend**ieron**	viv**ió**	viv**ieron**

Notice that the -**ar** and -**ir** endings for **nosotros** are identical in the present and the preterit.

2. Certain verbs are regular but need spelling changes in the **yo** form to preserve the pronunciation. Remember these spelling conventions to help you.

> Verbs ending in -**gar**: ga **gue** gui go gu
> pa**gar**: pa**gué**, pagaste, pagó, etc.

Other common verbs of this type are: ju**gar**, lle**gar**, ne**gar**, re**gar**, ro**gar**.

> Verbs ending in -**car**: ca **que** qui co cu
> bus**car**: bus**qué**, buscaste, buscó, etc.

Other common verbs of this type are: criti**car**, expli**car**, practi**car**, to**car**.

> Verbs ending in -**zar**: za **ce** ci zo zu
> empe**zar**: empe**cé**, empezaste, empezó, etc.

Other common verbs of this type are: almor**zar**, apla**zar**, ca**zar**, comen**zar**, organi**zar**, re**zar**.

B. Irregular Forms

1. The following verbs have irregular forms in the preterit.

dar:	di	diste	dio	dimos	disteis	dieron
ir:	fui	fuiste	fue	fuimos	fuisteis	fueron
ser:	fui	fuiste	fue	fuimos	fuisteis	fueron
estar:	estuve	estuviste	estuvo	estuvimos	estuvisteis	estuvieron
tener:	tuve	tuviste	tuvo	tuvimos	tuvisteis	tuvieron
poder:	pude	pudiste	pudo	pudimos	pudisteis	pudieron
poner:	puse	pusiste	puso	pusimos	pusisteis	pusieron
saber:	supe	supiste	supo	supimos	supisteis	supieron
hacer:	hice	hiciste	hizo	hicimos	hicisteis	hicieron
venir:	vine	viniste	vino	vinimos	vinisteis	vinieron

2. The verbs **decir**, **traer**, and verbs ending in -**ducir** take a **j** in the preterit. Notice that they drop the **i** in the third person plural and are followed by -**eron**.

decir:	dije	dijiste	dijo	dijimos	dijisteis	di**jeron**
traer:	traje	trajiste	trajo	trajimos	trajisteis	tra**jeron**
producir:	produje	produjiste	produjo	produjimos	produjisteis	produ**jeron**

3. Verbs with stems ending in a vowel + -er or -ir (except the silent **u**, as in **seguir**) take a **y** instead of the **i** in the third person singular and plural.

construir:	construí	construiste	construyó	construimos	construisteis	construyeron
leer:	leí	leíste	leyó	leímos	leísteis	leyeron
oir:	oí	oíste	oyó	oímos	oísteis	oyeron

Note: *There was/were* = **hubo**.

C. -*Ir* Stem-Changing Verbs

-**Ir** stem-changing verbs only have a stem change in the third person singular and plural. In dictionary listings, these changes are the second change listed: **morir** (ue, u).

dormir (ue, **u**):	dormí	dormiste	durmió	dormimos	dormisteis	durmieron
mentir (ie, i):	mentí	mentiste	mintió	mentimos	mentisteis	mintieron
vestirse (i, i):	me vestí	te vestiste	se vistió	nos vestimos	os vestisteis	se vistieron

The Imperfect—*El imperfecto*

A. Regular Forms

To form the imperfect of regular verbs, drop the -**ar**, -**er**, or -**ir** ending of the infinitive and add the appropriate endings to the stem. Notice that all -**ar** verbs end in -**aba** and -**er** and -**ir** verbs end in -**ía**.

cerrar*		conocer		servir*	
cerraba	cerrábamos	conocía	conocíamos	servía	servíamos
cerrabas	cerrabais	conocías	conocíais	servías	servíais
cerraba	cerraban	conocía	conocían	servía	servían

*Note: Stem-changing verbs do not change in the imperfect.

B. Irregular Forms

Common irregular verbs are:

ir:	iba	ibas	iba	íbamos	ibais	iban
ser:	era	eras	era	éramos	erais	eran
ver:	veía	veías	veía	veíamos	veíais	veían

Note: *There was/were* = **había**.