Español 106 Spelling changes

**verbs ending in: inf. / pret. yo / pres. subj.**

1. --gar: g >>>> gu before e, i llegar / llegué / llegue

2. --car: c>>>> qu before e, i tocar / toqué / toque

3. --zar: z >>>> c before e, i empeza / empecé / empiece

**inf. / pres. ind. yo / pres. subj.**

4. --guir: gu >>> g before a, o seguir / sigo / siga

5. --ger &-gir g>>>j before a, o escoger / escojo / escoja

The present subjunctive will have that spelling change in all six forms.

All of these changes occur for the purpose of preserving the original sound of the infinitive, except for the -zar change of z to c. That one is made in order to conform

to a spelling rule. Nothing is spelled "ze" or "zi". Always change z to c before e, i--

not just in verbs: la luz, las luces el pez, los peces.

Remember:

1. **g** before **e** or **i** is pronounced like the jota (soft g)

2. **g** before **a**, **o**, or **u** is hard (as in "goat")

3.  **g** before **e** or **i** may be kept hard by placing **u** after the consonant

4.  **c** before **e** or **i** is pronounced like the English **th** in Spain (except in Andalucía) or

like **s** in Spanish America & Andalusía) (soft c)

5. c before a, o, or u is hard (k sound)

1. llegar, pagar, apagar, jugar, navegar

2. tocar, buscar, acercarse (to approach), explicar, sacar

3. empezar, comenzar, almorzar, cruzar

4. seguir, conseguir, distinguir

5. coger (to seize, catch), escoger (to choose), elegir (i,i), recoger (to gather, collect), dirigir (to direct)

**Verbs ending in -ucir & -ecer do not have spelling changes. They are just plain irregular:**

**infinitive / pres. ind. yo / pres. subj.**

conocer: conozco, conozca

traducir: traduzco, traduzca

conocer, parecer, merecer (to deserve), aparecer (to appear, as a rabbit out of a hat)

traducir, producir, pertenecer (to belong to)