

The Present Tense of Stem- Changing Verbs:

e → *ie*

e → *i*

o → *ue*

u → *ue*

“Boot Verbs”

There is a fairly large group of verbs in Spanish that change in the **yo, tú, él/ella/Ud, and ellos/ellas/Uds forms.**

When a line is drawn around the forms that change, the resulting shape vaguely resembles a boot or high-top shoe; thus, these verbs are sometimes informally called “boot” verbs.



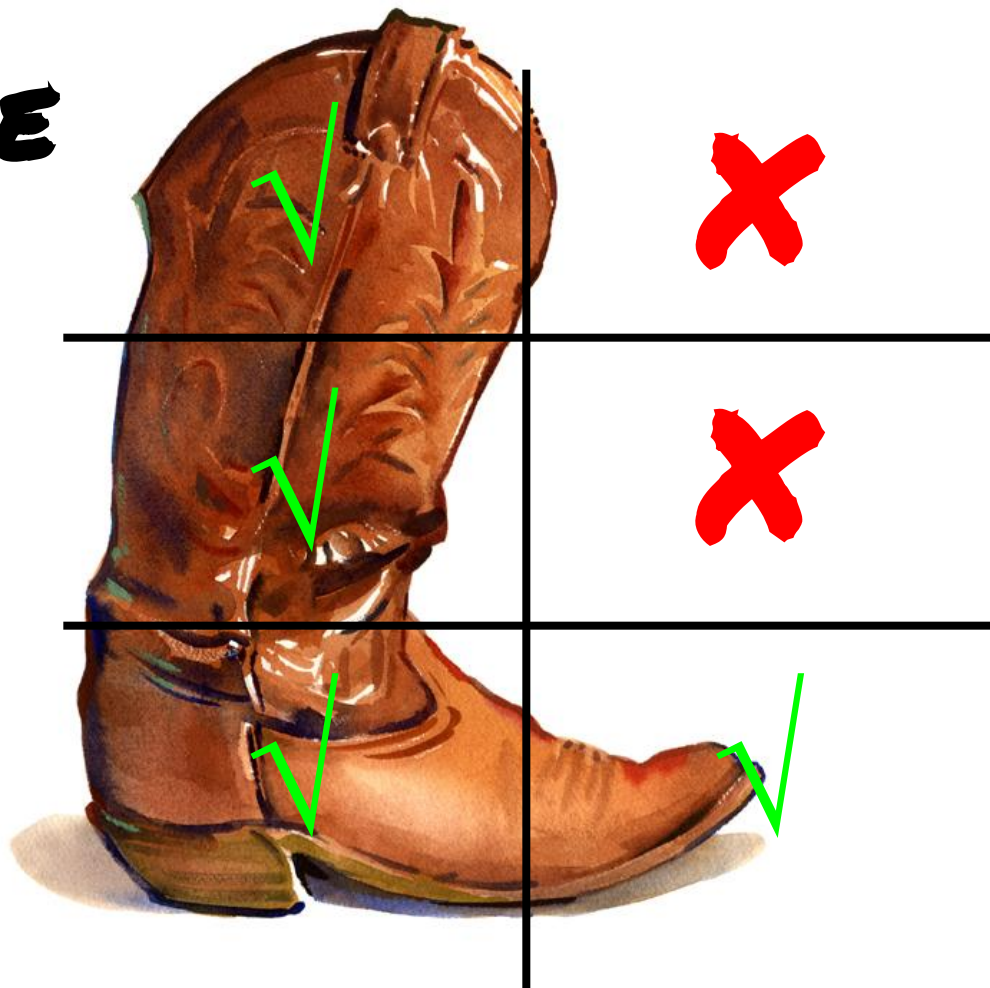
There are four types or classes of “boot” verbs.



- E to IE boot verbs
- O to UE boot verbs
- E to I boot verbs
- U to UE boot verbs



**WHY ARE
THEY
CALLED
BOOT
VERBS?**

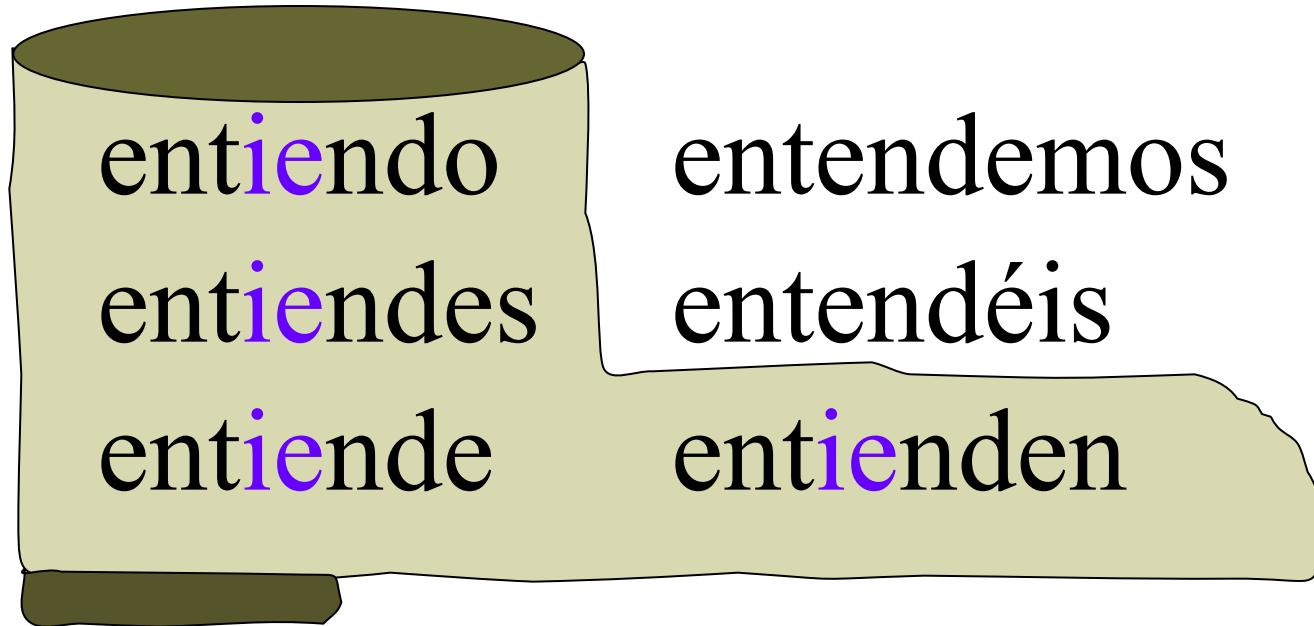


**STEM-
CHANGERS
DON'T
CHANGE
IN THE
NOSOTROS
!!!**

Type 1: e → ie

We'll use *entender*, to understand, as an example of this type.

entender



The stem undergoes the change only when stressed.

Here are some other common e → ie verbs:

empezar, comenzar

to begin



pensar (+ infinitive)

to think; to plan (to do something)

perder

to lose

preferir

to prefer

querer

to want, to love

tener, venir

The verbs *tener* and *venir* are what might be called partial stem-changing verbs; the *yo* forms do not have the stem change, but they do have an irregularity.

tengo

tienes

tiene

Tengo exámenes mañana.

tenemos

tenéis

tienen

I have exams tomorrow.

vengo

vienes

viene

Vengo de la biblioteca.

venimos

venís

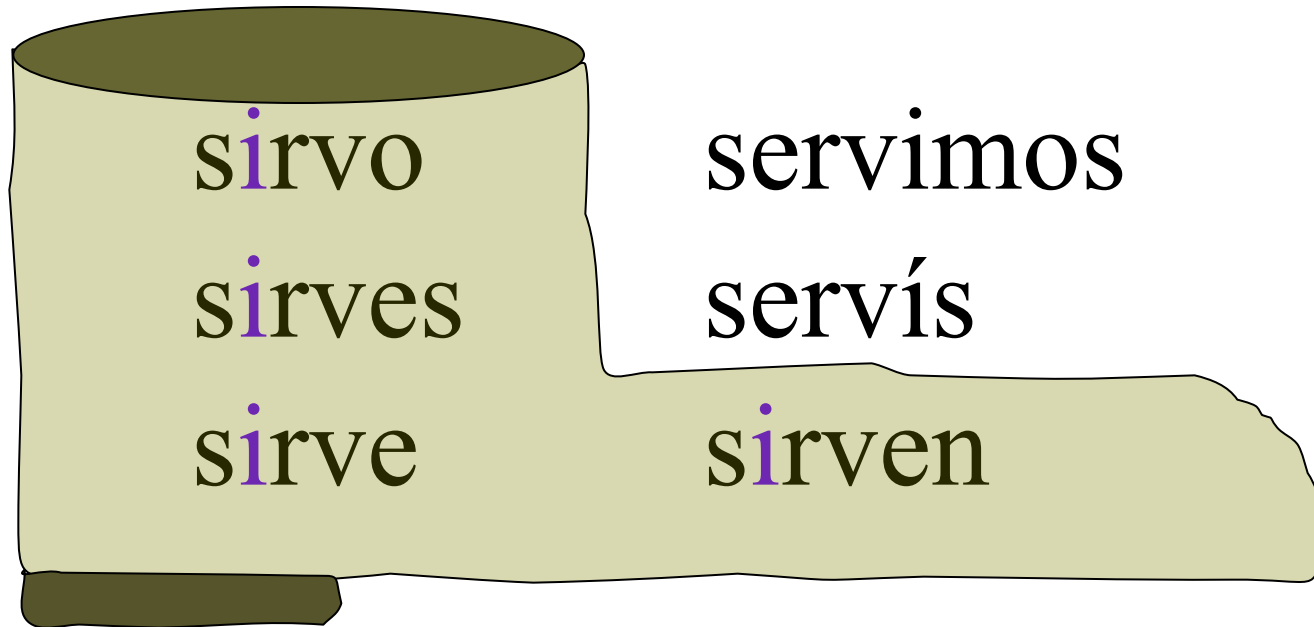
vienen

I'm coming from the library.

Type 2: e → i

We'll use *servir*, to serve, as an example of this type.

servir



sirvo	servimos
sirves	servís
sirve	sirven

Note: All e → i verbs are **-ir** verbs.

Here are some other common e → i verbs:

medir

to measure, to be
a certain height



pedir

to ask for, to request

repetir

to repeat, to have a
second helping

teñir

to dye, to color

Type 3: o → ue

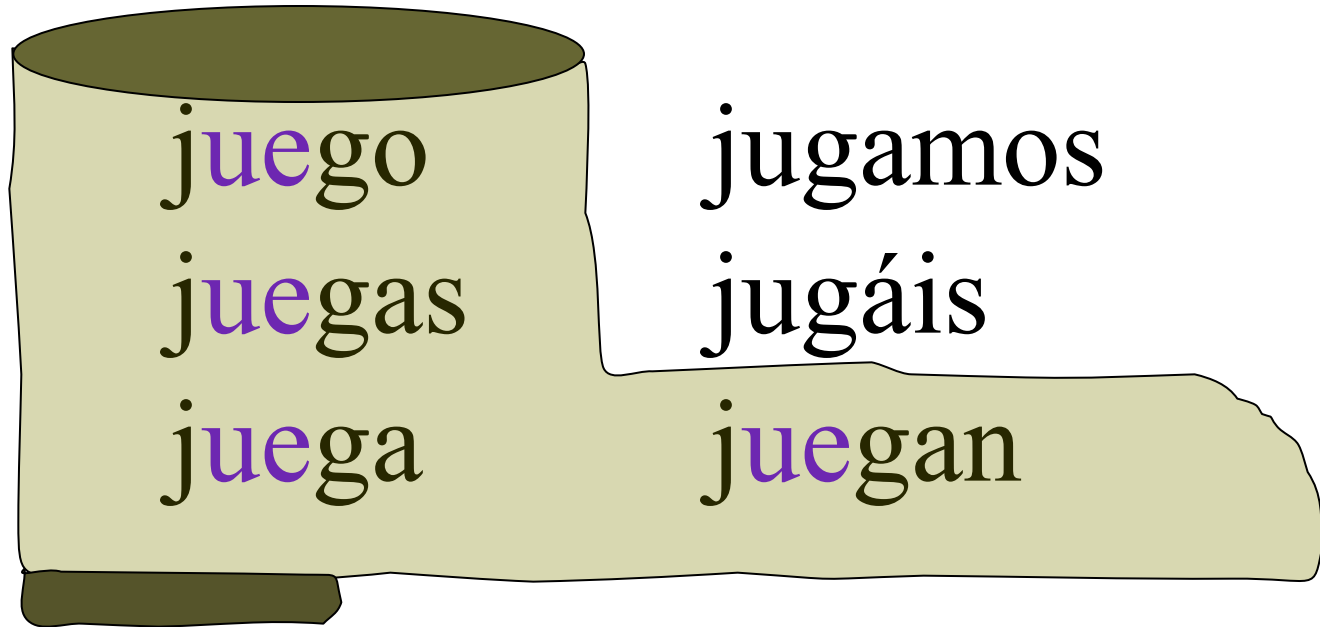
We'll use *almorzar*, to have lunch, as an example of this type.

almorzar



The verb *jugar*, to play (games or sports), follows the same pattern as *o* → *ue* verbs, but the change is *u* → *ue*.

jugar



Here are some other common **o** → **ue** verbs:

costar*

to cost



dormir

to sleep

encontrar

to find

poder

to be able; can

recordar

to remember

soñar (con)

to dream (about)

volver

to return, to
come back

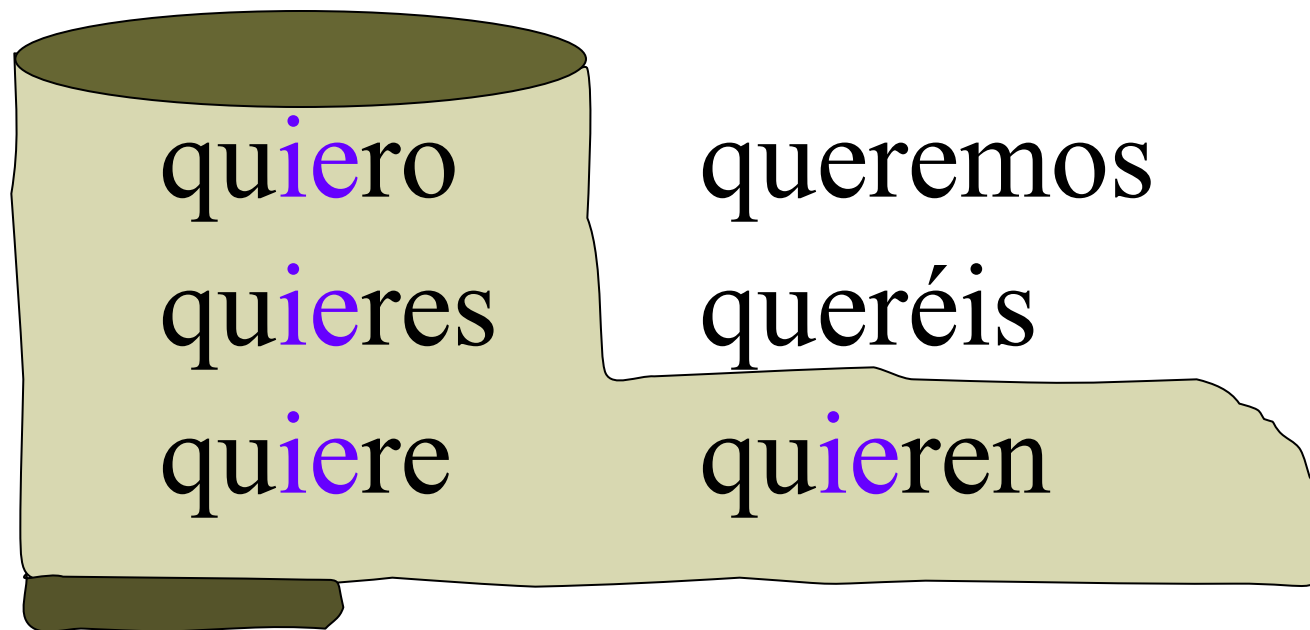
**Costar* is normally used only in the third persons.

The verbs *querer* and *preferir*

Expressing desires and
preferences

Querer and *preferir* are important stem-changing verbs that have multiple uses.

querer



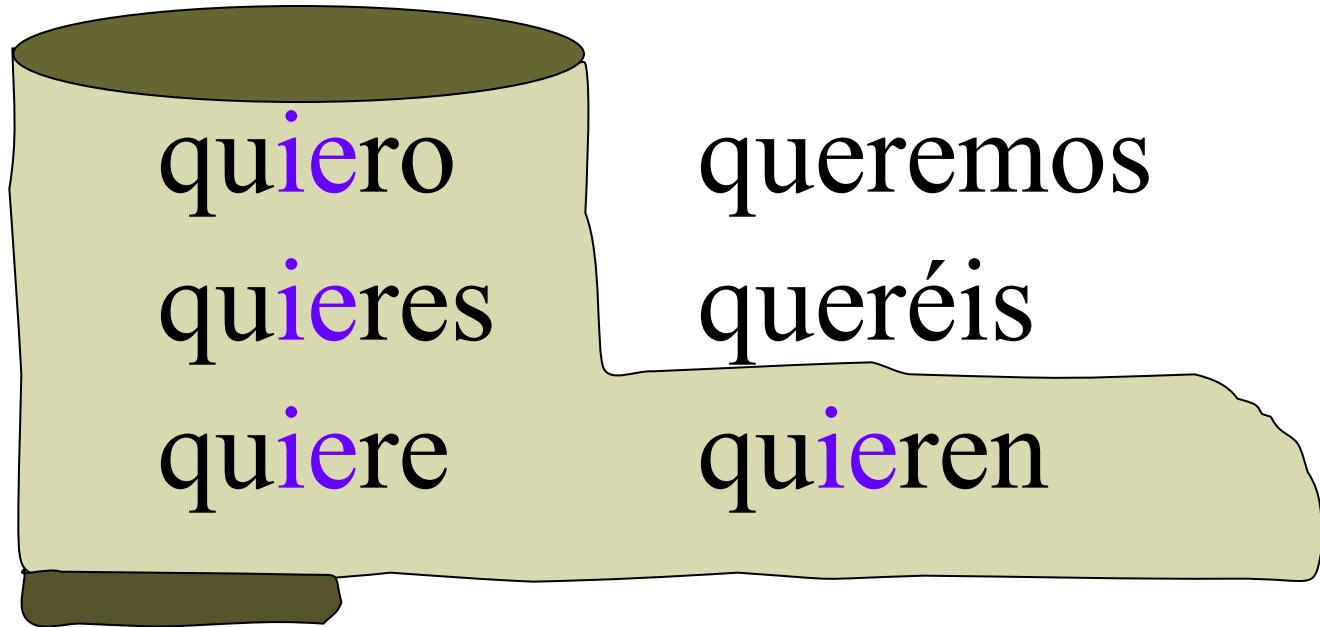
When used with a thing as the direct object,
querer means to want.

¿Quiere un
sándwich
de pollo?

Sí, y quiero
papas fritas
también, por
favor.



querer

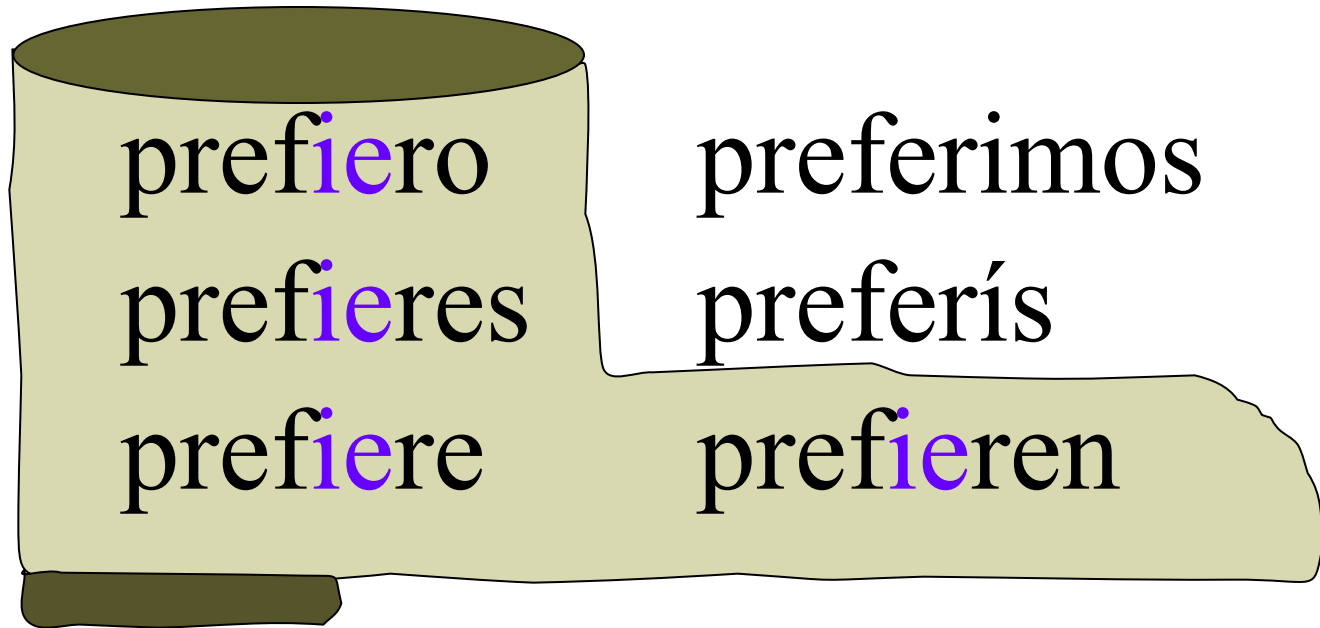


When used with a person as the direct object,
querer means to love.

Quiero mucho
a su hija, señor
Vega.



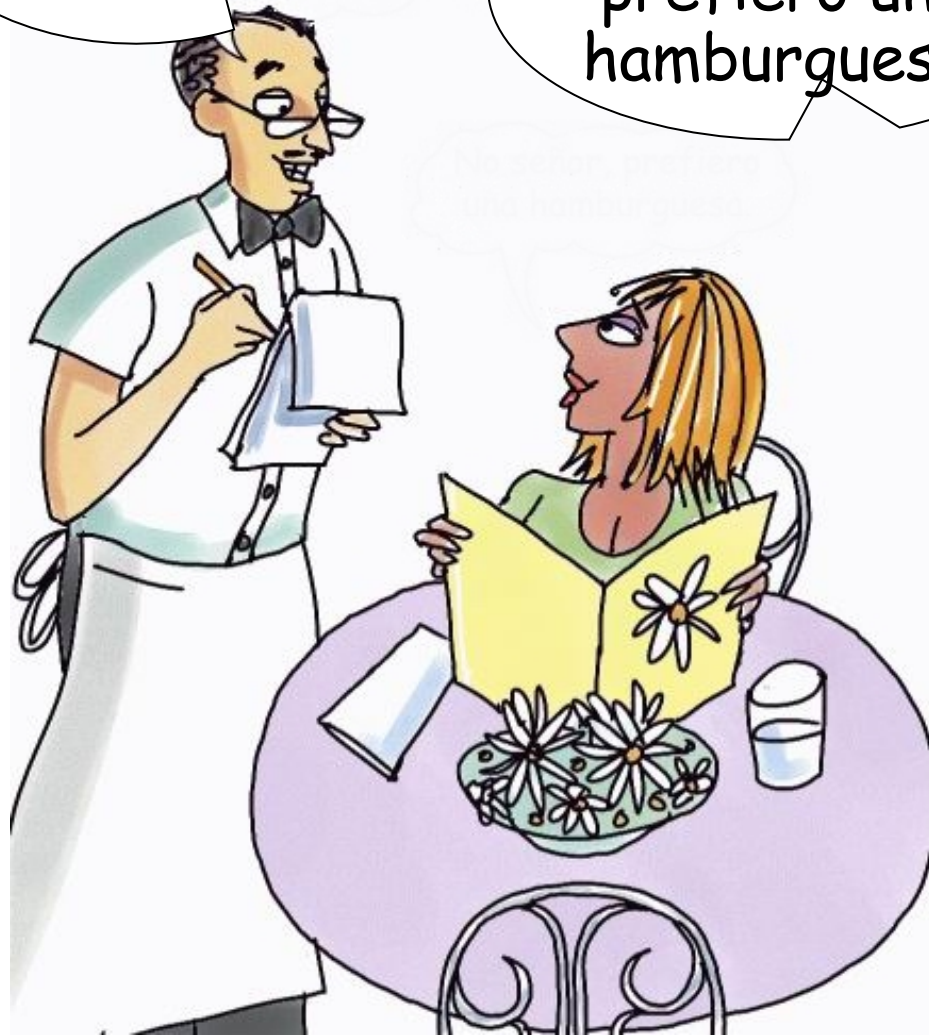
preferir



Preferir, of course, means to prefer.

¿Quiere un
sándwich
de pollo?

No señor,
prefiero una
hamburguesa.



Both *querer* and *preferir* can be used with an infinitive directly after them

We start with an appropriate person and number of *querer* or *preferir* . . . and then add any infinitive.

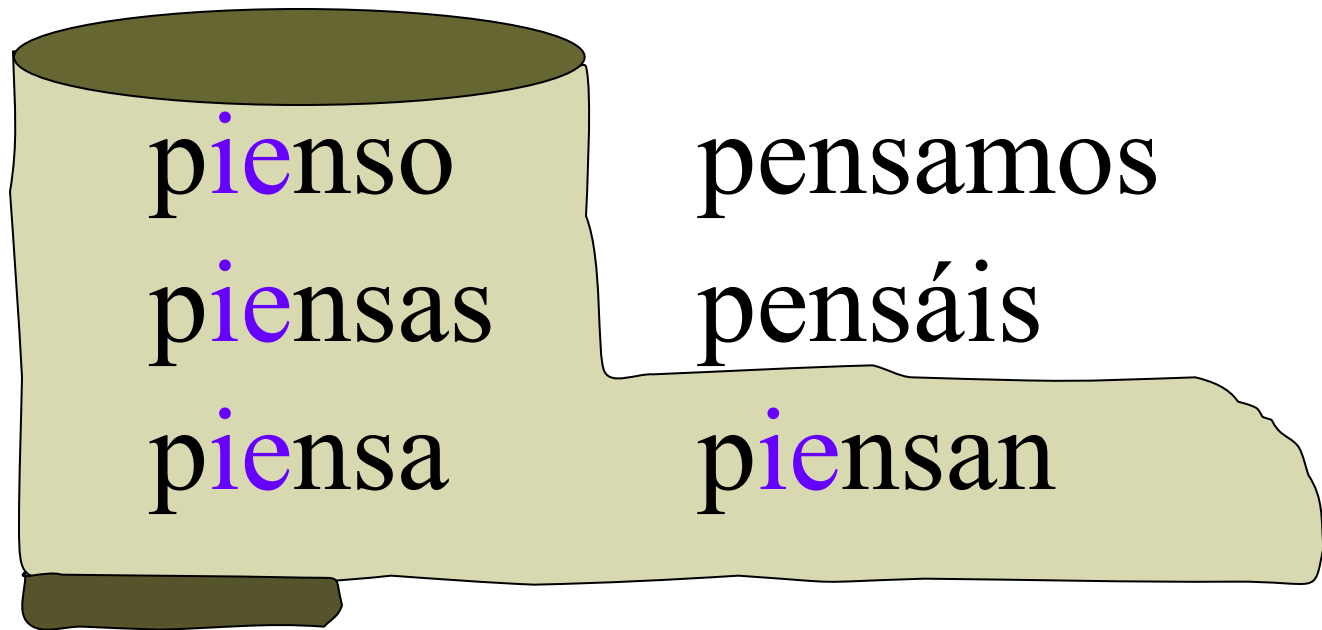
quiero	queremos	}	estudiar	leer
quieres	queréis		escribir	comer
quiere	quieren		viajar	aprender
			bailar	dormir

Rafael quiere esquiar, pero su novia prefiere patinar.

Rafael wants to ski, but his girlfriend prefers to skate.

Thinking and planning

The verb *pensar* is another very useful stem-changing verb.



Thinking and planning

Pensar basically means “to think.”

Me gusta ir al parque para
pensar y descansar.

I like to go to the park to
think and rest.



Thinking and planning

Pensar en means “to think about.”

Gabriela siempre piensa en sus estudios.

Gabriela is always thinking about her studies.

Pensamos en el bienestar de la familia.

We're thinking about the wellbeing of the family.

¿En qué piensas?

What are you thinking about?

Thinking and planning

Pensar de means “to think of” (to have an opinion about.)

¿Qué piensas de las novelas de Márquez?

What do you think of Márquez’s novels?

Pensar que means “to think that” (in answer to the above question, for example.)

Yo pienso que sus novelas son maravillosas.

I think that his novels are wonderful.

Thinking and planning

Pensar also has a special use . . .

pensar + *infinitive* =
to plan *to do* something

Pensamos escuchar
música en el parque esta
tarde.

We're planning to listen
to music in the park this
afternoon.



Thinking and planning

¿Qué piensas hacer después de clase?

Después de clase, yo pienso . . .

¿Qué piensas hacer este fin de semana?

Este fin de semana, pienso . . .

¿Qué piensan hacer Uds. (tú y tu familia)
en las vacaciones de verano?

En las vacaciones de verano, pensamos . . .

FIN