

Preterite of stem-changing -ir verbs

Preview

- Preterite of stem-changing -ir verbs
- Other verbs that follow this pattern

< Back

Next >

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Main 

Preterite of stem-changing -ir verbs

- Only **-ir** stem-changing verbs have a stem change in the preterite.
- If an **-ir** verb, such as **sentirse** or **dormirse** (*to fall asleep*), has a stem change in its present tense forms, then it also has a stem change in the preterite, but in its third person forms only.

Preterite of stem-changing -ir verbs

	sentirse e→i	dormirse o→u
yo	me sentí	me dormí
tú	te sentiste	te dormiste
usted, él, ella	se sintió	se durmió
nosotros(as)	nos sentimos	nos dormimos
ustedes	se sintieron	se durmieron
ellos, ellas	se sintieron	se durmieron

Other verbs that follow this pattern

- Other verbs that follow this pattern are **morirse** (*to die*), **preferir**, **seguir** (*to follow, to keep going*), **divertirse** (*to have fun*), **pedir**, **servir**, and **vestirse**.

Los niños **se murieron** de la risa cuando me vieron.
The children died laughing when they saw me.

- Seguir** followed by a gerund means *to keep on doing something*.

Comenzó a llover pero el equipo **siguió** jugando.
It began to rain, but the team kept on playing.

Using **reírse**

- The verb **reírse** (*to laugh*) uses accent marks in the preterite when the **i** is pronounced as a separate syllable.

yo me reí

nosotros(as) nos reímos

tú te reíste

ustedes se rieron

él, ella se rio

ellos, ellas se rieron

¿Les gustó la película?

Sí, **nos divertimos** y **nos reímos** mucho.