

Lesson Notes: IR Stem-Changing Verbs

In the preterite, -AR and -ER verbs **NEVER** stem-change.

No exceptions.

IR Verbs:

CLASS I — Regular -IR verbs (NO stem change)

These are the “normal” ones.

Examples: vivir, abrir, escribir, recibir, decidir

Present: vivo, vives, vive... **Preterite:** viví, viviste, vivió...

No stem change in ANY tense.

CLASS II — Big-Change Verbs (Present Only)

These behave like the stem-changing -AR and -ER verbs.

- **o → ue** (dormir → duermo)
- **e → ie** (sentir → siento)

Present: duermo, siento **Preterite:** dormí, sentí (NO diphthong)

They **do NOT** stem-change in the preterite.

CLASS III — Small-Change Verbs (Present AND Preterite)

These are the “compact” verbs.

- **e → i** (pedir → pido, repetir → repito)
- **e → í** (reír → río)

Present: pido, río **Preterite:** pidió, rió (ONLY in 3rd person)

This is the **ONLY** group that changes in the preterite.

****Only Class III -IR verbs stem-change in the preterite.**

And only in the 3rd-person forms.**

That's it.

Two possible changes:

- **o → u**
- **e → i**

Examples:

- **dormir → durmió, durmieron**
- **sentir → sintió, sintieron**
- **pedir → pidió, pidieron**
- **reír → rió, rieron**

Everything else stays regular.