

Summary of Present Tense

Patterned irregular:

“G” verbs (hacer, decir, oír, poner, salir, traer, tener, venir)

“Z” verbs (conocer, parecer, merecer, pertenecer)

“Stem-changing” verbs

E-->I

servir, pedir, vestir, repetir

E-->IE

tener, venir, sentar, cerrar, pensar

O-->UE

dormir, poder, costar, encontrar, soñar, mostrar



<i>(subject)</i>	-AR	-ER	-IR
yo	-o	-o	-o
tú	-as	-es	-es
él/ella/usted	-a	-e	-e
nosotros	-amos	-emos	-imos
vosotros	-áis	-éis	-ís
ellos/ellas/ustedes	-an	-en	-en

Just plain irregular:

ser: *soy, eres, es, somos, son*

ir: *voy, vas, va, vamos, van*

saber: *sé...*

ver: *veo...*

dar: *doy...*

estar: *estoy...*



Sudden past

a.k.a el pretérito

REGULAR

	-AR	-ER/-IR
yo	-é	-í
tú	-aste	-iste
él/ella/ud.	-ó	-ió
nosotros	-amos	-imos
vosotros	-asteis	-isteis
ellos/ellas/ ustedes	-aron	-ieron

Special spelling rule:

IF 3 pronounced vowels in a row
AND middle one is *i*
THEN *i* changes to *y*

caer	construir
caio	construio
cayó	construyó

BUT: ^{silent}
seguir
siguieron
^{still silent}

PATTERNED IRREGULAR

THIS *changes* THIS *before* THESE
VERB *to* STEM *adding* ENDINGS

hacer	hic-	
andar	anduv-	
haber	hub-	-e
estar	estuv-	-iste
tener	tuv-	-o
poder	pud-	-imos
poner	pus-	-isteis
venir	vin-	-ieron
querer	quis-	
saber	sup-	
caber	cup-	

conducir	conduj-	
decir	dij-	
traer	traj-	-eron

these drop the 'i'
on the last ending
only

"STEM CHANGERS"

IF

- verb vowel changes in present tense

AND

- verb infinitive ends in *-ir*

AND

- subject is **3rd person** (él, ella, usted, ellos, ellas, ustedes)

THEN

- e* --> *i*
- o* --> *u*

PEDIR:	DORMIR:
pedí	dormí
pedíste	dormíste
pidió	durmió
pedimos	dormimos
pedísteis	dormísteis
pidieron	durmieron

Other common examples:
servir, vestir, repetir
morir

JUST PLAIN IRREGULAR

IR and *SER* both become: *DAR* (rhymes with *VER*)

fui	di
fuiste	diste
fue	dio
fuimos	dimos
fuisteis	disteis
fueron	dieron



Descriptive past

a.k.a el imperfecto

REGULAR

	-AR	-ER/-IR
yo	-aba	-ía
tú	-abas	-ías
él/ella/ud.	-aba	-ía
nosotros	-ábamos	-íamos
vosotros	-abais	-íais
ellos/ellas/ ustedes	-aban	-ían



USES

- Past action in progress
often was/were + _____ing
“We were watching television when...”
- Setting the scene in the past
Including setting the time, period, or place
“It was nine o'clock when...”
“When I was a child/young/a certain age...”
“We were at the store and...”
“It was a dark and stormy night...”
- Talking about habits in the past
often includes “used to” or “would” to establish habit
“We used to go every year...”
“We would swim there every summer...”
- Describing things and people in the past
“He was tall and handsome...”
“The park was large and full of trees...”
- Simultaneous actions joined by “while”
“She painted while he read her a story...”

IRREGULAR

	IR	VER	SER
yo	iba	veía	era
tú	ibas	veías	eras
él/ella/ud.	iba	veía	era
nosotros	íbamos	veíamos	éramos
vosotros	ibais	veíais	erais
ellos/ellas/ ustedes	iban	veían	eran

A note about the descriptive past:

*Many times in language, there seem to be exceptions to every “rule”! You may see or hear a native speaker use the sudden past for something that seems to fit very well in the “uses” for the descriptive past. This is a pure judgment call. It’s all about **how you feel** about the action. Use the list as a general guideline and don’t stress about it! Ask yourself, “Is this like a snapshot (sudden past)? Or more like painting a landscape (descriptive past)?”*