

# Present: irregular II

Spanish · British English › Spanish

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## Irregular Verbs in the Present Tense: Consonant Changes (c>zc, g>j)

Hello there! In Spanish, just like in English, some verbs have their **irregular forms**. Today, we're focusing on special consonant changes that only happen in the **first person singular (yo)** of the Present Indicative tense. It's really important to remember these!

These changes (**c > zc** and **g > j**) help maintain the **pronunciation consistency** of the verbs. Without them, some forms would sound a bit odd to native Spanish speakers! Think of it as a little 'sound adjustment' to keep things flowing nicely.

The first group includes verbs ending in **-cer** or **-cir**. In the first person singular (**yo**) form, their consonant **c** changes to **zc** before the ending **-o**. Remember, this only happens with **yo**!

| Pronoun             | conocer         |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Yo                  | cono <b>zco</b> |
| Tú                  | conoces         |
| Él/Ella/Usted       | conoce          |
| Nosotros/as         | conocemos       |
| Vosotros/as         | conocéis        |
| Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes | conocen         |

Yo conozco muy bien Madrid.

*I know Madrid very well.*

The second group consists of verbs ending in **-ger** or **-gir**. Here, in the 'yo' form, the consonant **g** changes to **j** before the ending **-o**. Again, this **only** applies to the **yo** form!

| Pronoun             | coger         |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Yo                  | co <b>j</b> o |
| Tú                  | coges         |
| Él/Ella/Usted       | coge          |
| Nosotros/as         | cogemos       |
| Vosotros/as         | cogéis        |
| Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes | cogen         |

Yo cojo el tren a las ocho.

*I catch the train at eight o'clock.*

Watch out! These consonant changes **ONLY** happen in the first person singular (**yo**) form. All other forms of these verbs are regular in the present tense!

- Verbs with **c > zc**: **conocer** (conozco), **agradecer** (agradezco), **ofrecer** (ofrezco), **parecer** (parezco), **traducir** (traduzco), **conducir** (conduzco).
- Verbs with **g > j**: **coger** (cojo), **recoger** (recojo), **proteger** (protejo), **dirigir** (dirijo), **elegir** (elijo), **exigir** (exijo).
- Remember that some of these verbs might have other irregularities (like a vowel change), but the consonant change specifically affects the **yo** form!

**Yo conozco**

~~Yo conoce~~

The consonant 'c' changes to 'zc' in the 'yo' form.

Try to associate: 'C' like 'Cat', 'ZC' like 'Zany Cat'! Or 'G' like 'Goat', 'J' like 'Jolly Goat'! It's just a little trick to make these 'yo' exceptions easier to remember!

These exercises will help you practise and remember these irregularities. Good luck with your learning!

## Part 1 – Choose the correct word

Circle the option that correctly fills each gap.

1. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ bien esta ciudad.

*I know this city well.*

- A) conozco    B) conoce    C) conoco    D) conoces

2. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ el camino más corto.

*I choose the shortest way.*

- A) eliges    B) elige    C) elijo    D) elego

3. Siempre \_\_\_\_\_ las películas para mis padres.

*I always translate films for my parents.*

- A) traducimos    B) traduces    C) traduzco    D) traduzco

4. Mi padre siempre \_\_\_\_\_ con cuidado.

*My father always drives carefully.*

- A) conduzce    B) conduzco    C) conducen    D) conduce

5. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ vídeos para internet.

*I produce videos for the internet.*

- A) producen    B) produco    C) produce    D) produzco

6. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ mi tarjeta en el cajero.

*I am inserting my card into the ATM.*

- A) introduces    B) introduco    C) introduzco    D) introducimos

7. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ tu ayuda sincera.

*I appreciate your sincere help.*

- A) agradezco    B) agradeces    C) agradece    D) agradece

8. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ documentos importantes.

*I translate important documents.*

- A) traduces    B) traduce    C) traduzco    D) traduzco

## Part 2 – Fill in the gap

Write the missing word or phrase on the line.

1. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ setas en el bosque.  
*I gather mushrooms in the forest.*
2. Mi madre siempre \_\_\_\_\_ café a las visitas.  
*My mother always offers coffee to visitors.*
3. Mi marido \_\_\_\_\_ a los niños del colegio.  
*My husband picks up the children from school.*
4. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ muy rápido.  
*I grow very quickly.*
5. Siempre \_\_\_\_\_ la velocidad en la ciudad.  
*I always reduce my speed in the city.*
6. Ella \_\_\_\_\_ a su familia.  
*She protects her family.*

## Part 3 – Translate

Write each word in Spanish on the line.

1. to arise › \_\_\_\_\_
2. offer › \_\_\_\_\_
3. choose › \_\_\_\_\_
4. to immerse › \_\_\_\_\_
5. grow › \_\_\_\_\_
6. to pick up › \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 4 – Match the pairs

Write the letter of the matching translation next to each term.

| Term          | Translation    |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. parecer    | A to correct   |
| 2. surgir     | B to pick up   |
| 3. aparecer   | C to immerse   |
| 4. corregir   | D to seem      |
| 5. coger      | E to introduce |
| 6. sumergir   | F to catch     |
| 7. introducir | G to appear    |

8. recoger

H to arise

## Answer Key

### Part 1 — Choose the correct word

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. A) conozco  | 5. D) produzco   |
| 2. C) elijo    | 6. C) introduzco |
| 3. D) traduzco | 7. A) agradezco  |
| 4. D) conduce  | 8. D) traduzco   |

### Part 2 — Fill in the gap

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. recojo | 4. crezco  |
| 2. ofrece | 5. reduzco |
| 3. recoge | 6. protege |

### Part 3 — Translate

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. surgir  | 4. sumergir |
| 2. ofrecer | 5. crecer   |
| 3. elegir  | 6. recoger  |

### Part 4 — Match the pairs

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. D (to seem)    | 5. F (to catch)     |
| 2. H (to arise)   | 6. C (to immerse)   |
| 3. G (to appear)  | 7. E (to introduce) |
| 4. A (to correct) | 8. B (to pick up)   |