

Reference 9.1: Irregular Aspect

type of Irregular “Yo”	meaning	“Yo” form	type of verb
Irregular “G”			
1. caer	to fall	caigo	regular ER verb
2. decir	to say, to tell	digo	E to I Stem-Change
3. hacer	to do, to make	hago	regular ER verb
4. poner	to put, to set	pongo	regular ER verb
5. salir	to leave, to go out	salgo	regular IR verb
6. suponer	to suppose	supongo	regular ER verb
7. tener	to have	tengo	E to IE Stem-Change
8. traer	to bring	traigo	regular ER verb
9. valer	to be worth	valgo	regular ER verb
10. venir	to come	vengo	E to IE Stem-Change
CER, CIR → ZCO			
11. conducir	to conduct, to drive	conduzco	regular IR verb
12. conocer	to know, to be familiar with	conozco	regular ER verb
13. merecer	to deserve	merezco	regular ER verb
14. ofrecer	to offer	ofrezco	regular ER verb
15. parecer	to seem, to look like	parezco	regular ER verb
16. pertenecer	to belong	pertenezco	regular ER verb
17. traducir	to translate	traduzco	regular IR verb
GER, GIR → JO			
18. corregir	to correct	corrijo	E to I Stem-Change
19. dirigir	to direct	dirijo	regular IR verb
20. elegir	to elect, to select	elijo	E to I Stem-Change
21. escoger	to choose	escojo	regular ER verb
OY Endings			
22. dar	to give	doy	regular AR verb
23. estar	to be	estoy	irregular verb
24. ir	to go	voy	irregular verb
25. ser	to be	soy	irregular verb
other			
26. caber	to fit	quepo	regular ER verb
27. saber	to know (a fact)	sé	regular ER verb
28. seguir	to follow, to continue	sigo	E to I Stem-Change
29. ver	to see	veo	regular ER verb

Reference 9.1: Irregular Aspect

What is Irregular Aspect?

Aspect is a fancy word for first, second and third person. Sometimes in the Spanish language, only one aspect will be irregular. In the Present Tense, the “yo” form or first person singular aspect seems to be the most irregular. This is for two reasons. The first reason is because the “yo” form is used more often than the other forms in the Present Tense, it has changed throughout history the most. Second, the “yo” form ending is “o”, which is the only hard vowel. When you conjugate ER and IR verbs, all of the endings are soft vowels (Es and Is), with the exception of the “yo” form. Sometimes, this “o” can make the vowel before it sound different.

- **Example:** When I have “g” before an A, O, U or consonant, it makes a hard “g” sound like the word “gate”
- **Example:** When I have a “g” before an E or I, it makes a soft “g” sound like in the word “jalapeño”. It’s that hacking “h” sound that does not exist in English. To keep some consistency in the conjugation in the way that it sounds, we have to spell some of the words differently.
 - The verb “corregir” means “to correct”. If I spelled it “corrigo”, it would sound like “go”. I want it have the same sound as the other conjugations; therefore, I am going to change the “g” to a “j”

Reference 9.1: Irregular Aspect

saber vs. conocer

The verbs “saber” and “conocer” can both mean “to know”, it is important to be able to distinguish and use each of these correctly when speaking in Spanish.

saber-

- We use “saber” when we know or don’t know something that is factual.
 - “Ella no sabe la respuesta.”- She doesn’t know the answer.
- We use “saber” + infinitive to express to know how to do something.
 - “Yo sé hablar español.” - I know how to speak Spanish.
 - Note: We don’t use the word “cómo” (how) in Spanish like we do in English.

conocer-

- We use “conocer” to mean “to meet” or “to know a person.”
 - “Conozco al presidente de los EE.UU.”- I know the President of the United States.
- We use “conocer” to mean “to know” when we are familiar with something.
 - “Yo conozco Phoenix bien.”- I know Phoenix well.

¡cuidado! (Caution!)

- Many English speakers, think “saber = thing”, “conocer = person”. This is not always the case! In the second example of “conocer”, Phoenix is not a person. Phoenix is also not a fact; moreover, the person is expressing that they know Phoenix as in they are familiar with it.

personal “a”

- In Spanish, when a **PERSON** is the receiver of an action, we add “a” before the person’s name or whomever we are referring to. This concept comes up often with the verb “conocer”.
 - “Conozco a Mary.”- I know Mary.
 - “Conocemos al Señor De Vore.”- We know Mr. DeVore.