

### Preterite of Regular **-ar** Verbs

To form the **preterite** of a regular **-ar** verb, add the appropriate preterite ending to the verb's stem.

nadar to swim	
nadé	nadamos
nadaste	nadasteis
nadó	nadaron

### Preterite of **-car, -gar, -zar** Verbs

Regular verbs that end in **-car, -gar, or -zar** have a spelling change in the **yo** form of the preterite.

buscar	<b>c</b>	becomes → <b>qu</b>	(yo) <b>busqué</b>
jugar	<b>g</b>	becomes → <b>gu</b>	(yo) <b>jugué</b>
almorzar	<b>z</b>	becomes → <b>c</b>	(yo) <b>almorcé</b>

**Nota gramatical:** To express what hurts, use **doler (ue)** followed by a definite article and a part of the body.  
Me **duele la cabeza**. *My head hurts.*

### The Verb **jugar**

**Jugar** is a stem-changing verb in which the **u** changes to **ue** in all forms except **nosotros(as)** and **vosotros(as)**.

jugar to play	
juego	jugamos
juegas	jugáis
juega	juegan

When you use **jugar** with the name of a sport, use **jugar a + sport**.

### The Verbs **saber** and **conocer**

Both **saber** and **conocer** mean *to know* and have irregular **yo** forms in the present tense.

saber to know		conocer to know	
sé	sabemos	conozco	conocemos
sabes	sabéis	conoces	conocéis
sabe	saben	conoce	conocen

- Use **saber** to talk about factual information you know. You can also use **saber + infinitive** to say that you know how to do something.
- Use **conocer** when you want to say that you are familiar with a person or place. You also use **conocer** to talk about meeting someone for the first time.

**Nota gramatical:** When a specific person is the direct object of a sentence, use the personal **a** after the verb and before the person.  
No conozco **a** Raúl. *I don't know Raúl.*