

HELPFUL HINTS: SPANISH

Song for Teaching Irregular Preterites: Jackie Dubay

Great Way to Introduce Irregular Stem Verbs in the Preterite Tense

Introducing the Irregular Stem Verbs in the preterite tense is one of my favorite lessons. I use a song, learned from one of my own high school teachers, to introduce this lesson. The song is to the tune of 10 Little Indians and lists 11 irregular stem verbs in the yo form. I start out the lesson by introducing the song piece by piece. I have students sing each piece back to me. I will go on to the next piece, have students repeat after me, and then go through the two pieces together. Sometimes I will point to students individually to recite back from me what they hear. I do all of this before I give the students the handout. After about 5-7 minutes of this, I will finally give students a handout with the song on it, and we will sing it all together so that they can look at the words.

The handout in the file above has the song typed out and requires students to list the original infinitive of the irregular stem yo form and the definition of that infinitive. We go through this together. Then the right side of the paper we go through the guided notes explaining these verbs and how they are conjugated. My guided notes section is designed to be done after students have already learned the irregular preterite conjugations of ser, ir, dar, and ver. If the order of your lessons is set up differently, I have also provided a handout without these notes.

Over the next couple classes we spend about 5 minutes practicing memorization of the song, in addition to our normal practice and review. On the 4th class, right before the quiz is administered, students are given an "extra credit opportunity" to recite the song from memory (they are told about this when the song is first introduced). Students who volunteer and are successful earn 5% extra on their quiz. I find that this is a great incentive for students to learn the song, which in turn helps them greatly on the quiz. I usually have at least a handful of students that will recite the song from memory, and often these students don't even really need the extra credit that they earn. I am pleased to see how well all of the students do overall on this concept.

EL PRETÉRITO: IRREGULAR + IRREGULAR STEM VERBS

To the tune of 10 little Indians...

[infinitive]

[en inglés]

fui	_____	_____
y		
fui	_____	_____
di,	_____	_____
vi,	_____	_____
y		
vine,	_____	_____
hice	_____	_____
tuve	_____	_____
puse	_____	_____
estuve,	_____	_____
quise	_____	_____
pude	_____	_____
supe	_____	_____
dije,	_____	_____
traje	_____	_____
y...		
anduve	_____	_____

Irregular Stem Verbs

The verbs of this song are all conjugated into the _____ form of the preterite tense.

Remember that you have already learned to conjugate the first four verbs. Let's review below:

ser / ir

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

ver *no accents

dar *no accents + wannabe ER/IR verb

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

The next set of verbs are new. These are called *irregular stem verbs*.

Notice that the stem of the conjugated yo form verb in the song is different from the infinitive. This new stem is used in ALL preterite conjugation forms of the verb. These verbs have their own set of endings.

vin-
hic-
tuv-
pus-
estuv-
quis-
pud-
sup-
*dij
*traj-
anduv-

Irregular Stem Endings:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____ / * _____

* third person plural ending of decir and traer

Once you learn the irregular stems by practicing this song and the verb endings, you will be able to conjugate any of these verbs.

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hice	_____	_____
tuve	_____	_____
puse	_____	_____
estuve,	_____	_____
quise	_____	_____
pude	_____	_____
supe	_____	_____
dije,	_____	_____
traje	_____	_____
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anduve	_____	_____

Irregular Stem Verbs

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dije,	_____	_____
traje	_____	_____
y...		
anduve	_____	_____

Irregular Stem Verbs

The verbs of this song are all conjugated into the _____ form of the preterite tense.

The verbs of this song are all conjugated into the _____ form of the preterite tense.