Stem-changing verbs change spelling in the stem or first part of the verb [everything which remains after removing the -AR, -ER or -IR ending].

Stem-changing verbs in the present tense change in all but the nosotros and vosotros forms.

Changes are: e>ie, e>i, o>ue, u>ue.

When Spanish-speaking children are taught these verb forms, they sometimes call them shoe verbs because a “shoe” can be drawn around the forms which change when the verb is conjugated as below.

pensar [ie] = to think

yo p**ie**nso nosotros pensamos

tú p**ie**nsas *vosotros pensáis*

usted p**ie**nsa ustedes p**ie**nsan

él p**ie**nsa ellos p**ie**nsan

ella p**ie**nsa ellas p**ie**nsan

Some stem-changing verbs are also reflexive, and the reflexive object pronouns are placed in front of the verb conjugation and correspond to the subject. Reflexive object pronouns “reflect back” to the subject and are as follows:

me nos myself, to myself ourselves, to ourselves

te os yourself, to yourself yourselves, to yourselves

se se yourself, to yourself yourselves, to yourselves

se se himself, to himself themselves, to themselves

se se herself, to herself themselves, to themselves

sentirse [ie] = to feel (emotion)

yo **me** s**ie**nto nosotros **nos** sentimos

tú **te** s**ie**ntes *vosotros* ***os*** *sentís*

usted **se** s**ie**nte ustedes **se** s**ie**nten

él **se** s**ie**nte ellos **se** s**ie**nten

ella **se** s**ie**nte ellas **se** s**ie**nten

vestirse [i] = to get dressed; to dress oneself

yo **me** v**i**sto nosotros **nos** vestimos

tú **te** v**i**stes *vosotros* ***os*** *vestís*

usted **se** v**i**ste ustedes **se** v**i**sten

él **se** v**i**ste ellos **se** v**i**sten

ella **se** v**i**ste ellas **se** v**i**sten