

Homework #3

LIGN/EDS 119

Regular and irregular past tense verbs in English must be hard enough, but a child learning one of the many languages in the world that has a more complex verb system seems to face an even more daunting task. These children nonetheless manage quite well. In this exercise, you will get a taste of what the child goes through, using a small sample of verbs in Spanish.

Below you will find a list of some verb forms in Spanish for “we” and “I”. For example, *kosemos* means ‘we cook’ and *koso* means ‘I cook’. You do not need to know any Spanish to do this assignment, and you should not be concerned with considering any verbs that are not listed here. The verbs are written in a rough form of phonetic transcription, not in ordinary Spanish spelling.

<u>We</u>	<u>I</u>	
kosemos	koso	‘cook’
konosemos	konosko	‘know’
komemos	komo	‘eat’
satisfasemos	satisfago	‘satisfy’
defendemos	defyendo	‘defend’
konsedemos	konsedo	‘grant’
leemos	leo	‘read’
keremos	kyero	‘want’
paremos	paresko	‘seem’
komprendemos	komprendo	‘understand’
perdemos	pyerdo	‘lose’
exersemos	exerso	‘exercise’
asemos	ago	‘do’
estremesemos	estremesko	‘shake’
desasemos	desago	‘undo’

In all of the above verbs, the “we” form ends in *-emos* and the “I” form ends in *-o*. What these endings are attached to (the part that remains when you remove the endings) is called **the root**. In regular verbs, the root is the same with both “we” and “I”, but in irregular verbs, it is different.

1. Find all of the irregular verbs in the list above and group them into “families” (irregular verbs that all follow the same pattern) in the table below. You should find three of these families, and one example from each is already done for you. Complete the table with any additional members of these families.

2. For each family, formulate a precise statement of the change needed to convert the root in the “we” form to the root in the “I” form. For example, if you had the following family of irregular verbs:

ponemos pongo
tenemos tengo

You could formulate the following statement:

If the root ends in *n*, add a *g* to the right.

This would change the root from *pon-* to *pong-*.

List your rules in the table below. The above example is already listed.

3. For each of your families, say whether it has a positive exception, and if so, give one example. If you know Spanish, remember to use only the verbs in our list above.

Put all of your answers on the following sheet and turn that in.

Family (List verbs here)	Rule	Positive exception?
<i>ponemos pongo tenemos tengo</i>	<i>If the root ends in -n, add a -g to the right.</i>	
<i>konosemos konosko</i>		
<i>satisfasemos satisfago</i>		
<i>defendemos defyendo</i>		