

# THE POODLE “I” AND THE BIG DOGS



The Spanish “i” is the weakest (poodle) vowel out of the 5  
It cannot stand up to the other vowels.

When put into a word next to a Strong vowel, the “i” will get mauled.

When paired with a strong vowel, the “i” becomes a “glide.”

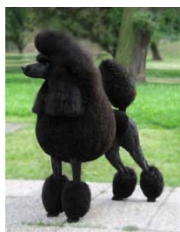
“Farmacia” is pronounced Far **MAH** sya. Notice the “i” has blended into the “a” with a “y” sounding glide.

If “día” didn’t have an accent mark, the “i” would not have its own distinct sound.

Because of the accent, the word *día* has 2 syllables: **DEE**-ah. Without the accent the word would be pronounced **DYAH** (one syllable)



# THE POODLE “I” & THE BIG DOGS IN PRESENT PARTICIPLES & PRETERITE



In Spanish you won't find three vowels in a row with an unaccented “i” in the middle! The “i” is too weak to hold its own and it would be mauled into silence by the big dogs without some help.

So the Poodle “i” will be replaced by the German Shepherd Dog “y” in the present participles or in preterite forms of those -Er and -Ir verbs whose stem ends in a vowel.

Because the Preterite adds TWO vowels to the third person forms and TWO vowels in the Present Progressive Participle form, the weak “I” is automatically boxed in between strong vowels.

Preterite:



Leer : le*i*ó  
Oír :  
Caer :



leyó (see?)  
oyó (easy!)  
cayó (ok, you've got it!)



Present Participles

Leer : le*i*endo → leyendo (see?)  
Oír :  
Caer : cayendo (ok, you've got it!)

