

El verbo *tener*

The verb ***tener*** means **to have**. The forms of *tener* are a bit irregular, so study the chart below carefully. Note that a **g** is added before the **o** in the *yo* form. In the *tú, el/ella/Ud.* and *ellos/ellas/Uds.* forms, the **e** of the stem changes to **ie**. The *nosotros* and *vosotros* forms are formed regularly.

subject	tener	meaning
yo	tengo	I have
tú	tienes	you have (familiar, sing.)
él ella usted	tiene	he has she has you have (formal, sing.)
nosotros nosotras	tenemos	we have
vosotros vosotras	tenéis	you have (familiar, plural)
ellos ellas ustedes	tienen	they have you have (plural)

Tener is used in various expressions in Spanish. Two of these uses are (1) to express age and (2) to express a sense of obligation.

1. **Tener** to express age.

In English we use the verb "to be" to express age. For example we say: "I am thirty years old"; "He is eight years old"; "You are fifty years old."

In Spanish the verb *tener* (to have) is used. Note how the above examples would be expressed in Spanish.

I <u>am</u> thirty years old.	(Yo) Tengo treinta años.
He <u>is</u> eight years old.	(Él) Tiene ocho años.
You <u>are</u> fifty years old.	(Tú) Tienes cincuenta años. or
	(Ud.) Tiene cincuenta años.

2. **Tener que + infinitive** to express a sense of obligation.

To express the phrase "to have to ...", Spanish uses the verb *tener* followed by *que* and then the infinitive of the verb. For example: I have to write the homework; She has to prepare the meal; We have to take notes.

In Spanish, these would be expressed as follows:

I <u>have to write</u> the homework.	(Yo) Tengo que escribir la tarea
She <u>has to prepare</u> the meal.	Ella tiene que preparar la comida.
We <u>have to take</u> notes.	(Nosotros) Tenemos que tomar apuntes.

Tener Phrases



Tener sueño



Tener dolor



Tener hambre



Tener sed



Tener calor



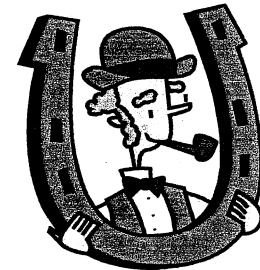
Tener frío



Tener la gripe



Tener miedo



Tener suerte



Tener prisa

$$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline 25 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline 30 \end{array}$$

Tener razón



Tener ochenta años

EXPRESSIONS WITH *Tener*

As you know, the verb *tener* means “to have.” Let’s review its forms by studying the chart below carefully.

subject	tener	meaning
yo	tengo	I have
tú	tienes	you have (familiar, sing.)
él ella usted	tiene	he has she has you have (formal, sing.)
nosotros nosotras	tenemos	we have
vosotros vosotras	tenéis	you have (familiar, plural)
ellos ellas ustedes	tienen	they have you have (plural)

We have already learned that *tener* is used in various expressions in Spanish - two of the most common being (1) to express age and (2) to express a sense of obligation.

Tener used instead of *ser* or *estar*.

As you know, there are two verbs in Spanish which mean “to be” – *ser* and *estar*. The verb *tener*, although it means “to have,” can also be translated as a form of the verb to be. We already know, for instance, that in expressing age (I am 15, you are 25, he is 40), Spanish uses the verb *tener* instead of *ser*. Some other expressions using *tener* to express a form of the verb to be are listed below.

Tener hambre	To be hungry	Tengo hambre.*	I’m hungry.
Tener sed	To be thirsty	Tengo sed.*	I’m thirsty.
Tener sueño	To be sleepy	Ella tiene sueño.*	She’s sleepy.
Tener calor	To be hot	¿Tienes calor?	Are you hot?
Tener frío	To be cold	No, tengo frío.	No, I’m cold.
Tener suerte	To be lucky	Ellos tienen suerte.	They are lucky.
Tener celos	To be jealous	Él tiene celos.	He is jealous.
Tener razón	To be right	Tengo razón.	I’m right.
No tener razón	To be wrong	No, tú no tienes razón.	No, you are wrong.
Tener prisa	To be in a hurry	Nosotros tenemos prisa.	We are in a hurry.
Tener miedo	To be afraid	El niño tiene miedo.	The boy is afraid.
Tener vergüenza	To be ashamed	¿No tienes vergüenza?	Aren’t you ashamed?
Tener éxito	To be successful	Él tiene éxito.	He is successful.
Tener la culpa	To be to blame	Ellos tienen la culpa	They are to blame.

*The literal meaning would be “I have hunger, thirst, sleep, etc,” but English uses the verb *to be*.