

Tener and Tener Expressions -- Transcript

Context

Hola y buenos días. In this lesson we're going to talk about the verb *tener*. It is the verb for "to have" and it is also used in a bunch of useful expressions. We'll begin by going over its forms and then we'll talk about the different ways it is used.

Information

1. *Tener* has an irregular *yo* form – *tengo* – and also follows the pattern of an **e→ie** stem-changing verb. Sound like a lot to remember? Don't worry about it. You've been hearing and saying *tengo*, the *yo* form for some time so you already know that. The other forms are *tienes*, *tiene*, *tenemos*, and *tienen*. Like other stem changing verbs, the **e** in *tener* changes in every form except *nosotros*. *Repite. Tengo, tienes, tiene, tenemos, tienen.*
2. In Spanish, we use *tener* in all the same ways we normally use the verb "to have" in English. We express "I have a book" as *Tengo un libro*. We also use *tener* to express obligation, as in "to have to do something." So, "I have to study" translates into Spanish as *Tengo que estudiar*. The formula for this is *tener + que + infinitive*. *Repite. Tengo dos perros. Tenemos la clase de matemáticas a las cuatro. Tienes que estudiar para el examen. José tiene que escribir una composición.*
3. We also use *tener* to express a number of phrases that, in English we say with the verb "to be." You may have already learned to say how old you are using *tener*. For example, *Tengo veintitrés años* means "I am twenty-three years old." While in English we say "I am hungry," in Spanish we say *Tengo hambre*, literally, "I have hunger." In English we say "I am cold" but in Spanish we say *Tengo frío*.
4. The most common expressions with *tener* are these:
 - a. *tener frío* – to be cold
 - b. *tener calor* – to be hot
 - c. *tener hambre* – to be hungry
 - d. *tener sed* – to be thirsty
 - e. *tener miedo de* – to be afraid
 - f. *tener prisa* – to be in a hurry
 - g. *tener suerte* – to be lucky
 - h. *tener _____ años* – to be _____ years old

Repite. Tener frío, tener calor, tener hambre, tener sed, tener miedo, tener prisa, tener suerte, tener años.

5. Now, let's practice using these *tener* expressions in sentences. How would you say "I'm afraid of telephones"? *Tengo miedo de los teléfonos*. How about, "Class

is at 8:00 and Juana is in a hurry”? *La clase es a las ocho y Juana tiene prisa.*
And “I am always cold in the winter”? *Siempre tengo frío en el invierno. Repite.*
Tengo miedo de los teléfonos. Juana tiene prisa. Tengo frío en el invierno.

Review – Things to Remember

That’s really all there is to it. Tener is used for the English “to have” and “to have to do something.” It’s also used in a number of expressions where, in English, we use the verb “to be.” I think you’ve got it. *Ya lo entiendes bien. Eso es todo. Adiós.*