## 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  $\mathbf{g}$  is added before the  $\mathbf{o}$  in the yo form. In the  $t\acute{u}$ , el/ella/Ud. and ellos/ellas/Uds. forms, the  $\mathbf{e}$  of the stem changes to  $i\mathbf{e}$ . The nosotros and vosotros forms are formed regularly.

subject	tener	meaning
yo	ten <b>g</b> o	I have
tú	t <b>ie</b> nes	you have (familiar, sing.)
él		he has
ella	t <b>ie</b> ne	she has
usted		you have (formal, sing.)
nosotros	tenemos	we have
nosotras		
vosotros	tenéis	you have (familiar, plural)
vosotras		
ellos		they have
ellas	t <b>ie</b> nen	
ustedes		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. <u>Tener</u> to express age.

In English we use the verb "to be" to express age. For example we say: "I <u>am</u> thirty years old"; "He <u>is</u> eight years old"; "You <u>are</u> 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. <u>Tener que + infinitive</u> 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 <u>have to write</u> the homework; She <u>has to prepare</u> the meal; We <u>have to take</u> 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.

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