



“Tener” Idioms

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What is an idiom?

- An idiom is a phrase in one language that cannot be taken literally or translated directly to another language. One must instead understand the context of the saying and deduce the meaning.

Example: “It’s raining cats and dogs.” (It’s raining hard)

- Can you think of an example we’ve already learned in Spanish?

The verb “Tener” - Conjugation reminder

(yo) tengo	(nosotros) tenemos
(tú) tienes	(vosotros) tenéis
(él, ella) (usted) tiene	(ellos) (ustedes) tienen

“Tener” Idioms

- In Spanish, we use “tener” in many instances where you might think to use “ser” (To be)

Some examples:

I am thirsty

→

I have thirst

I am hungry

→

I have hunger

I am cold

→

I have coldness

List of “Tener” Idioms

tener...

(to be)

calor

hot

cuidado

careful

frío

cold

miedo

afraid

prisa

in a hurry

hambre

hungry

sed

thirsty

razón

right

sueño

sleepy

suerte

lucky

Tener ganas de + *infinitive*
To feel like ...

- Tengo ganas de dormir
 - I feel like sleeping

Practice

Translate to Spanish:

We are cold.

They are in a big hurry.

You (formal) are lucky.

Mateo is sleepy.

Practice

Translate to Spanish:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| We are cold. | → | Tenemos frío. |
| They are in a big hurry. | → | Ellos tienen mucha prisa. |
| You (formal) are lucky. | → | Usted tiene suerte. |
| Mateo is sleepy. | → | Mateo tiene sueño. |