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	ten**g**o	I have
tú	t**ie**nes	you have (familiar, sing.)
él ella usted	t**ie**ne	he has she has you have (formal, sing.)
nosotros nosotras	tenemos	we have
vosotros vosotras	tenéis	you have (familiar, plural)
ellos ellas ustedes	t**ie**nen	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 <u>am</u> 15, you <u>are</u> 25, he <u>is</u> 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	Ellas 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*.