**Notes on Tener**

Tener means “to have” and in some cases, “to be”

It is an irregular verb in all forms except “nosotros”.

IT IS BEST TO JUST MEMORIZE IT!

(Yo) **Tengo** 1= I have (Nosotros/as) **Tenemos** 3 =We have

(Tú) **Tienes** 2= You have(inf)

Él **Tiene** 2= He Has Ellos **Tienen** 2=They Have (masc. pl.)

Ella **Tiene** 2= She has Ellas **Tienen** 2= They Have (fem. Pl.)

Ud. **Tiene** 2= You have(for) Uds. **Tienen** 2 = You Have (pl)

1 It is considered a “-Go verb” because a random “g” appears, for no apparent reason, in the 1st person singular (yo) form. Ten**g**o = I have.

There are more “-go verbs” that will be covered in later chapters.

2 It is also a “stem changing verb”. Because like the name suggests, the stem of the verb changes.

Tener – er = ten The stem of the verb is what’s left after you subtract the “-ar, -er, -ir”

Stem

In the case of tener, the “e” in the stem (t**e**n-) changes to –**ie**-, making the new stem “t**ie**n-” Except in the yo and nosotros forms

3 Stem changing verbs also known as “shoe verbs” do not change in the nosotros form

**"Tener que + infinitive "**

**Tener que + infinitive** is one way to express obligation or necessity. This expression can be translated as "someone has to do something." Tener is conjugated according to the subject of the sentence.

**Tengo que comer las verduras.**  
I have to eat the vegetables.  
  
**Ángel tiene que leer el periódico.**  
Ángel has to read the newspaper.  
  
**Ellos tienen que comprar una revista.**  
They have to buy a magazine.

**María tiene un examen el lunes. Ella tiene que estudiar.**  
María has a test on Monday. She has to study.

**Tener to express age**

In English, we use the verb “to be” to express age.

I am 30 years old. He is 25 years old. You are 12 years old.

However, in Spanish, the verb Tener (to have) is used. The above sentences would translate as follows in Spanish:

I am 30 years old. – Yo tengo treinta años.

He is 25 years old. - Él tiene veinticinco años.

You are 12 years old. – Tú tienes doce años.

More examples:

¿Cuántos años tienes? How old are you?

Tengo quince años. I am 15 years old.

¿Cuántos años tiene tu padre? How old is your dad?

Mi padre tiene cuarenta años. My dad is 40 years old.

\*\*\*These notes were adapted from the original creation of Srta. Colbert of Roxana, IL.\*\*\*