

Tener

The verb *tener* means *to have*. In addition to being an e-ie stem-changing verb, it is somewhat irregular (notice that even for a stem-changer, it is irregular, because it is not a boot verb). Use your notes or your book to fill out the following chart.

tener – to have

Tener is used to talk about possession. Look at the following examples:

- Yo tengo un libro. – I have a book.
- Ellos tienen muchas clases. – They have many classes.

Tener is also used to talk about obligations (what someone has to do). When *tener* is used in this way, it must be followed by the word *que* and an infinitive (a verb that has not been conjugated). In the following examples, *tener que* is underlined and the infinitive is circled.

- Nosotros tenemos que ayudar.
- María tiene que estudiar.

Tener is also used to give ages. While English speakers say, “I am fifteen years old,” Spanish speakers say, “I have fifteen years.”

- Yo tengo quince años. – I am fifteen years old.
- Jorge tiene dieciséis años. – Jorge is sixteen years old.

Complete the following sentences. Some refer to possession, so will simply use a form of *tener*. Others refer to obligations, and will need a form of *tener que*. If they refer to obligations, circle the infinitive.

1. Tú _____ una bicicleta.
2. Nosotros _____ estudiar para un examen.
3. Benjamín _____ quince años.
4. Los alumnos _____ seis clases.
5. Usted _____ un hijo guapo.
6. Gonzalo y Julia _____ trabajar hoy.
7. La señora _____ comprar naranjas.
8. Yo _____ diecisiete años.