Common Expressions with ‘Tener’

Since the literal meaning of these phrases is "I have hunger", etc., Spanish uses adjectives where English needs adverbs such as "very":

- Tenemos mucho sueño. We are very sleepy.
- Tengo demasiada hambre. I am too hungry.

More Common Expressions with ‘Tener’

- ¿Cuántos años tienes? How old are you?
- Tengo veinte años. I am twenty.
- Ella tiene frío. She is cold.
- ¿Tenéis sed? Are you thirsty?
- Ella tiene hambre. She is hungry.
- Tengo calor. I am warm.
- Tenemos sueño. We are sleepy.
- Tienen miedo (de...) They are afraid (of...)
- Tienes razón You are right.
- ¡Ten cuidado! Be careful!
- No tengo mucha suerte. I am not very lucky.
- Tengo que viajar a otro país. I have to travel to another country.
- Tengo muchas cosas que hacer. I have a lot of things to do.

Expressions with ‘Tener que’, ‘Hay que’

- ‘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.)
• **Hay que + infinitive** is used to express the idea that "one must do something" or, "it is necessary to do something." It is a more general expression and since there is no subject, the verb form hay is always used.

**Hay que tomar un taxi.**
It is necessary to take a taxi.

**Hay que estudiar mucho.**
One must study a lot.

• **Examples to show** the contrasting uses of these two expressions:

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

  **No es fácil aprender el español. Hay que practicar mucho.**
  It isn't easy to learn Spanish. It is necessary to practice a lot.