

**Spanish 101**  
**Expressions with Tener**

Many expressions that are formed with to be + adjective in English are formed with tener + noun in Spanish:

Review your knowledge of these idiomatic expressions by matching the following with their English equivalents:

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___ 1. tener (mucho) frío            | a. to be (very) sleepy          |
| ___ 2. tener (much <u>a</u> ) sed    | b. to be (very) hot             |
| ___ 3. tener (much <u>a</u> ) hambre | c. to be in a (big/great) hurry |
| ___ 4. tener (mucho) calor           | d. to be wrong                  |
| ___ 5. tener (mucho) sueño           | e. to be .... years old         |
| ___ 6. tener (much <u>a</u> ) prisa  | f. to be (very) careful         |
| ___ 7. tener (mucho) miedo           | g. to be (very) cold            |
| ___ 8. tener (mucho) cuidado         | h. to be (very) thirsty         |
| ___ 9. tener razón                   | i. to be (very) hungry          |
| ___ 10. no tener razón               | j. to be (very) afraid, scared  |
| ___ 11. tener .... años (de edad)    | k. to be right                  |

Note that when using “mucho/mucha” in Spanish, meaning “very,” this must agree with the noun it precedes, so the feminine Spanish words sed, hambre, and prisa require “mucha”.

Mucho/mucha is usually translated as “very” or “quite.”  
In the case of la prisa, it may be translated as “big hurry” or “great hurry.”

Note that the expression tener razón is “to be right” (to have reason [logic])  
and the opposite is no tener razón = “to be wrong” (to not have reason [logic])

To say someone is mistaken, you may use:

“estar equivocado/a” or “equivocarse”:

Yo me equivoco=I am mistaken. Nosotros nos equivocamos=We are mistaken.

Yo estoy equivocado=I am mistaken. Ana está equivocada=Ann is mistaken.