

Meaning of sentences in Spanish

Definition: A word or group of words that expresses a complete thought. In traditional grammar, a sentence must include at least a subject (a noun or something that substitutes for a noun) and a predicate (which has to include a verb). A sentence can express a statement, ask a question or give a command.

In Spanish, it is very common for the subject to not be explicitly stated, although it is implied by the conjugation of the verb. For example, the word *hablamos*, which means "we speak," can be a complete sentence. The subject of the sentence is not explicitly stated, although it is implied to be *nosotros*, which means "we."

In English, the subject can be similarly implied, although only when the verb is in the imperative mood, that is, when the sentence is a command. For example, the command "speak" is a complete sentence; the listener can infer that the subject is "you."

Exclamations, such as "ouch!" in English or "*¡ay!*" in Spanish can express a complete thought, although they generally are not considered to be sentences.

Also Known As: *oración, frase* in Spanish

Examples:

Spanish: *El cielo es azul. ¿Cuál es el significado de la vida? ¡Cállate!* (These sentences make a statement, ask a question and give a command, respectively.) **English:** The sky is blue. What is the meaning of life? Shut up!

Like its English counterpart "to go," the Spanish verb *ir* can be used with an incredible variety of meanings. The meanings of phrases using *ir* can't always be determined logically merely by knowing the meanings of the individual words, so they are best learned through actual use or memorization.

By far the most common expression using *ir* is *ir a* followed by an infinitive. For most purposes, it is the equivalent of the English "to go to" followed by a verb. Thus "*voy a estudiar*" means "I am going to study." This use of *ir a* is extremely common in Spanish, so much so that in some parts of Latin America it is the de facto future tense. So a sentence such as "*Vamos a comprar la casa*" can be translated as either "We are going to buy the house" or "We will buy the house."

Here are some other common expressions where *ir* is used:

- *ir en* + name of vehicle — to travel by (type of vehicle) — *Voy en autobús*. I am traveling by bus.
- *ir para* + infinitive — to go to *verb*, to go in order to *verb*, to go for the purpose of *verb* — *Vamos para conocer a mis padres*. We are going in order to meet my parents.
- *ir para* + type of job or career — to go to become *type of job* — *Pablo va para médico*. Pablo is going to become a doctor.
- *ir* + gerund — to be doing something, usually with the connotation of doing so gradually or laboriously — *Voy aprendiendo la lección*. I am slowly learning the lesson. *Él va construyendo la casa*. He is gradually building the house.
- *ir tirando* — to manage or get by — *Vamos tirando por mucha ayuda*. We're getting by with a lot of help.
- *ir andando, ir corriendo* — to walk, to run — *Va andando a la escuela*. He is walking to the school. *Fue corriendo a la escuela*. He ran to the school.
- *ir de* — to be about (when said of a book, movie, speech, etc.) — "*El señor de los anillos*" *va de un hobbit*. "The Lord of the Rings" is about a hobbit.

- *ir de* — to think of oneself as — *Roberto va de inteligente*. Roberto thinks he's smart.
- *ir de, ir con* — to be dressed in — *Él va con camisa blanca. Ella va de azul*. He is wearing a white shirt. She is dressed in blue.
- *ir de compras* — to go shopping — *Fuimos de compras*. We went shopping.
- *ir por* — to search for, to go in search of, to go for — *Vamos por una casa nueva*. We're off in search of a new house.
- *ir por* — to reach or to pass (a milestone or task) — *Voy por la mitad del libro*. I'm halfway through the book.
- *¿Cómo* + indirect object pronoun + *ir?* — How goes it (for you, him, her, etc.)? — *¿Cómo te va?* How's it going? *¿Cómo le va a él?* How's it going for him?
- *irse* — to go away — *¡Vete ya!* Get out of here!
- *irse por las ramas* — to beat around the bush, to get sidetracked — *El testigo se fue por las ramas*. The witness beat around the bush.

If there were a Top 10 list somewhere for Spanish verbs made versatile through idioms, *tener* would probably be in that list. A wealth of phrases using *tener* are often used to indicate [emotions or states of being](#), and in many of those *tener* can be translated as "to be" rather than the more literal "to have."

There are also numerous other idioms using *tener*. (As used here, an idiom is a phrase that has a meaning more or less independent of the words in the phrase). You'll run across them all the time in both print and conversation.

Perhaps the most common is the phrase *tener que* (usually in a conjugated form) followed by an infinitive and meaning "to have to": *Tengo que salir*. I have to leave. *Tendrás que comer*. You will have to eat.

Following are some of the other common idioms using *tener*. Words in parentheses indicate that less generic words should normally be substituted:

Idiom: *tener ... años*

Meaning: to be ... years old

Example: *Tengo 33 años*. I'm 33 years old.

Idiom: *tener ... de ancho/largo/altura*

Meaning: to be wide/long/tall

Example: *Tiene 23 centímetros de ancho*. It is 23 centimeters wide.

Idiom: *tener a bien (hacer algo)*

Meaning: to see fit (to do something)

Example: *Mi esposa tiene a bien comprar un coche*. My wife sees fit to buy a car.

Idiom: *tener a (alguién) por ...*

Meaning: to consider (someone) to be

Example: *Tengo a Roberto por tonto*. I consider (or take) Roberto to be foolish.

Idiom: *tener por seguro*

Meaning: to rest assured

Example: *Ten por seguro que vamos al centro*. Rest assured we are going downtown.

Idiom: *tener sobre (algo)*

Meaning: to lean on (something)

Example: *El paraguas tenía sobre el coche*. The umbrella was leaning on the car.

Idiom: *tener un(a) niño/niña/hijo/hija/bebé*
Meaning: to have a baby
Example: *Tuvo una hija.* She had a baby girl.

Idiom: *no tener nada que ver con*
Meaning: to have nothing to do with
Example: *No tengo nada que ver con cazar.* I have nothing to do with hunting.

Idiom: *tener lugar*
Meaning: to take place
Example: *Tiene lugar la fiesta en mi casa.* The party will take place in my home.

Idiom: *tener en cuenta*
Meaning: to bear in mind
Example: *No tenía en cuenta la opinión de sus hijos.* He didn't keep in mind the opinion of his children.

Idiom: *tener para (sí)*
Meaning: to think
Example: *Tengo para mí que ganarán.* I think they'll win.

Idiom: *no tenerlas todo con(sigo)*
Meaning: to not have it all together, to have the jitters
Example: *Tengo que hablar, pero no las tengo todas conmigo.* I have to talk, but I'm jittery about it.

Idiom: *estar que no tenerse*
Meaning: to be tired out
Example: *Estoy que no me tengo.* I'm all tired out.

Idiom: *tenerse en pie*
Meaning: to stand
Example: *Me tuve en pie para ver.* I stood up to see.

Idiom: *tenerse firme*
Meaning: to stand upright or firm
Example: *Se tuvo firme a sus enemigos.* He stood up firm to his enemies.

Keep in mind, of course, that *tener* is highly irregular in its conjugation.