

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #6 I'm Hungry for More Spanish!

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INFORMAL SPANISH

1. LUISA: ¿Qué te pasa?
2. JAIME: Tengo hambre.
3. LUISA: Pues vamos a comer.
4. JAIME: ¡Por fin!

ENGLISH

1. LUISA: What's wrong with you?
2. JAIME: I'm hungry.
3. LUISA: Then let's go eat.
4. JAIME: Finally!

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
por fin	finally	adverbial phrase
¿Qué te pasa?	What is your problem? / What is wrong with you?	phrase
tener hambre	to be hungry	phrase
ir a + (infinitive)	to be going to (do something)	phrase
comer	to eat	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Por fin hemos terminado. "We have finally finished."</p>	<p>¿Qué te pasa? ¿Porqué estás triste? "What's wrong with you? Why are you sad?"</p>
<p>¿Tienes hambre ahora o prefieres comer luego? "Are you hungry now or do you prefer to eat later?"</p>	<p>¡Qué hambre tengo! ¡A comer! "I'm so hungry! Let's eat!"</p>
<p>Debemos empezar a cocinar ahora porque al rato vamos a tener hambre. "We should start cooking now because in a bit we're going to be hungry."</p>	<p>Voy a entrenar a las tres de la tarde. "I'm going to work out at three in the afternoon."</p>
<p>Estamos supuestos a comer al menos tres veces al día. "We are supposed to eat at least three times a day."</p>	<p>Comí un arroz chaufa bien taypá. "I ate tons of fried rice."</p>

Ellos comen mucho.

"They eat a lot."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***¿Qué te pasa?* ("What's wrong with you?")**

This question is literally "what is happening to you?" but carries the implication that something is, indeed, wrong with you.

***tener hambre* ("to be hungry")**

Literally, this phrase is "to have hunger." This is the standard way to express hunger in Spanish.

comer ("to eat")

Besides being a very important verb for any visitor to a Spanish-speaking country, it's also a regularly conjugated verb in all tenses, and thus instructors often use it as the example -er verb.

ir a + infinitive ("to be going to do something")

We use this formula to indicate an action in the immediate future in Spanish.

¡Por fin! ("Finally!")

This is an expression of relief we say when waiting or when expecting something to happen for a relatively long time.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Verb *Tener*.

Tengo hambre.

"I'm hungry."

The verb **tener** means "to have" in the sense of "to own," "to possess," or "to hold." Note that the English verb "to have" has many usages, some of which the verb *tener* does not cover.

For Example:

1. *Tienen una casa en Las Vegas.*
"They have a house in Las Vegas."
In this case, we use "to have" in the sense of "to own," "to possess"; use *tener*.
2. *Ya no tenemos dinero.*
"We don't have any money."
In this case, we use "to have" in the sense of "to own," "to possess"; use *tener*.

Other uses of "to have" are not equivalent to *tener*.

For Example:

1. "They have not even tried."
This is an auxiliary use of "to have"; the main action is actually "to try." Do NOT use *tener* in this case.
2. "Have your friend give me a call."
This is an causative use of "to have" do NOT use *tener* in this case.
3. "We have pancakes for breakfast on the weekends."
This is an idiomatic use of "to have"; the main action is actually "to eat." Do NOT use *tener* in this case.

Formation

In the present tense of the indicative mood, *tener* has a special *yo* form: *yo tengo*. In other forms, the stem *ten-* alternates with *tien-* in the forms where the stem receives tonic stress.

For Example:

<i>Spanish</i>	"English"
<i>tengo</i>	"I have"
<i> tienes</i>	"you have"
<i> tiene</i>	"he/she/it has"
<i> tenemos</i>	"we have"
<i> tenéis</i>	"you all have" (European Spanish, familiar)
<i> tienen</i>	"they have," "you all have"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Should You Stop and Smell the Roses during Lunch?

A two-hour lunch versus a one-hour lunch: what do you prefer? If you live in a

Spanish-speaking country, you might want to choose the former. (You see? This is just one more reason to learn Spanish and finally ask for that international assignment.)

We should make a few distinctions. First off, lunch tends to be the most important meal of the day in Spanish-speaking countries, whereas in the United States the most important meal is dinner. The two-hour lunch tends to lend itself to eating at home and perhaps even taking a power nap or what we refer to as *la siesta*. Of course, this isn't always the case: should your office be too far from home, then perhaps a very extended lunch near work might be in order. Of course, you should exercise discretion during lunch when there's work to be done. In Mexico, for example, there are restaurants called *fondas* where they serve *comida corrida*. This means there is a set four-course menu for the day that can start with soup; progress to an appetizer such as a salad; move into an entrée that can be either fish, beef, or chicken with a side; and dessert. And afterward, you can wash down all of this with your choice of *agua fresca* or soda. Everything is made on the spot! I think this in itself can require more than just a quick drive through your closest fast food pick-up window.

I'm hungry again. Why is food so good?!

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