

“To have to”, “To have just”, & “Going to”

As you know, when 2 verbs are used back to back (forming a compound verb) the second verb is not conjugated. This is usually made obvious by the English meaning. For example in the sentence “He wants to swim” you can see that the first verb is changed from “to want” to “wants” while the second verb is left in its original form “to swim”.

This is exactly what happens in Spanish also. The same sentence in Spanish would be “Él quiere nadar”. The first verb, “querer” changes to “quiere” to match the subject “He” while the second verb is unchanged.

Sometimes this happens with a phrase also, where there is a connecting word between the two verbs. You will need to memorize these phrases as you learn them. Today we will focus on 3 phrases; to have to do something, to have just done something, and going to do something. They are;

To have to = **Tener que**

To have just = **Acabar de**

Going to = **Ir a**

To use these phrases you will conjugate the first verb to match the subject and leave the second verb alone. Remember that the verbs “tener” and “ir” are irregular.

Examples;

I have to leave = Yo tengo que salir.

She has to study a lot = Ella tiene que estudiar mucho.

We just ate = Nosotros acabamos de comer.

They just left = Ellos acaban de salir.

I’m going to leave = Yo voy a salir.

He’s going to eat it = Él lo va a comer.