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as·sume  (ə-s m)

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v. as·sumed, as·sum·ing, as·sumes

v.tr.

1. To take for granted; suppose: *The study assumes that prices will rise.*

2.

a. To take upon oneself (a duty or obligation): *assume responsibility; assume another's debts.*

b. To undertake the duties of (an office): *assumed the presidency.*

3.

a. To take on (an appearance, role, or form, for example); adopt: *"The god assumes a human form" (John Ruskin).*

b. To pretend to have; feign: *assume an air of authority.*

4. To take over without justification; seize: *assume control.*

5. To clothe oneself in; don: *The queen assumed a velvet robe.*

6. To take up or receive into heaven.

v.intr.

To make a supposition; suppose or believe: *"Is Kay's husband coming to dinner too?" "I assume so."*

[Middle English *assumen*, from Latin *assumere* : *ad-*, *ad-* + *sūmere*, to take; see **em-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

as·sum'a·bil i·ty *n.*

as·sum a·ble *adj.*

as·sum a·bly *adv.*

as·sum er *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

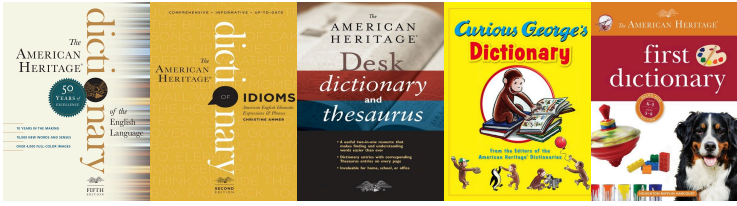
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[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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