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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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pre·sume  (prĭ-z m)

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v. pre·sumed, pre·sum·ing, pre·sumes

v.tr.

1. To take for granted as being true in the absence of proof to the contrary: *"I presume you're tired after the long ride" (Edith Wharton).*
2. To constitute reasonable evidence for assuming; appear to prove: *A signed hotel bill presumes occupancy of a room.*
3. To venture without authority or permission; dare: *He presumed to invite himself to dinner.*

v.intr.

1. To take for granted that something is true or factual; make a supposition.
2. To act presumptuously or take unwarranted advantage of something: *Don't presume on their hospitality.*

[Middle English *presumen*, from Old French *presumer*, from Late Latin *praesumere*, from Latin, to anticipate : *prae-*, *pre-* + *sumere*, to take; see **em-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

pre·sum ed·ly (-z mĭd-lē) *adv.*

pre·sum er *n.*

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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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