



ASSUME VS PRESUME



Master B2 Grammar Fast

- Easy-to-read sheets
- Smart grammar tables
- Designed for B2 First (FCE) success!

★ Used by 1,000+ students



ASSUME (verb)

To suppose something is true without proof or evidence; often neutral or speculative.

+ that

- I **assumed** she's at work because her car is gone.
- Don't **assume** he'll help just because he offered last time.

+ to infinitive

- We can't **assume** the suspects **to be** guilty simply because they've decided to remain silent.
- I had **assumed** him **to be** a Belgian.

it is assumed (that)...

- It is generally **assumed that** stress is caused by too much work.
- It is generally **assumed that** they were lovers.



PRESUME (verb)

To suppose something is true based on probability or reasonable evidence; often implies confidence or a right to believe it.

+ that

- I **presume that** she missed the train, given how late she is.
- You shouldn't **presume to speak for** everyone in the group.

+ speech

- "You're the new manager, I **presume?**"
- I **presume not/so**.

+ object + adjective

- In British law, you are **presumed** innocent until you are proved guilty.

Presume to do something:

- to be arrogant or impertinent enough to do something.
I would never **presume to** tell you what to do.

Presume on something:

- to take unfair advantage of something.
I didn't mean to **presume on** your generosity by staying so long.



IN SHORT...

ASSUME

- Believe something is true without checking.
- Often suggests an unsupported belief.
- Common in everyday conversation.

PRESUME

- Believe something is true based on a reason or expectation.
- Often suggests a reasonable or more confident belief.
- Can sound slightly more formal.



THE KEY DIFFERENCE

Assume = believe without checking.

Presume = believe based on a reason or expectation.