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Say It Right

with Denyse Tessensohn

Assuming that ...

When you say you are assuming that something – an event or situation – is going to happen, you usually also say what you would do if it does; or what further result could be brought about because of it.

Some examples would be: 1. "We can take out the new umbrellas because we are right in the middle of the monsoon season and I am assuming that it will rain again tomorrow." 2. "Are you sure you can just assume that she knows what to do, just because she saw it being done once?" 3. "I am assuming that everything will be in place, otherwise the consequences will be dire."

It is somewhat different if you presume something, which could just end in a question. For example, "I presume you know what you are doing?"

We will answer some of your spoken English language questions in this column, and a book prize will be awarded weekly for the question, anecdote or suggestion most useful to our readers.

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