

PRESUPPOSITIONS

Definition: Presuppositions are Linguistic Assumptions and are useful for:

- Recognizing what is assumed by the client's speech and assisting in
- Creating new I/R's for the client.

1) Existence – (Tip-off: Nouns): uses the objective (not often useful)

2) Possibility/Necessity – (Tip-off: Modal Operators)

i.e. Should, could, can, want, get instead of shouldn't, couldn't, can't etc.

3) Cause-Effect – (Tip-off: "Makes, "If...then")

This = that

4) Complex Equivalence – (Tip-off: "Is," "Means")

Two statements linked together being equal.

5) Awareness – (Tip-off: Verbs with V, A, KO, G)

6) Time – (Tip-off: Verb Tense, "Stop", "Now", "Yet")

7) Adverb/Adjective – (Tip-off: An adverb or adjective)

i.e. "I'm totally pregnant"

8) Exclusive/Inclusive OR – (Tip-off: "Or")

Double – blind illusion of choice

9) Ordinal – (Tip-off: A List)

PRESUPPOSITIONS

In the following sentences, please distinguish between the presupposition and the mind read. Put a “P” or an “MR” next to each one:

1. “I’m not sure whether or not I should stop beating my wife.”

- ___ A. He has wife.
- ___ B. He loves his wife
- ___ C. He currently beats his wife
- ___ D. He’s a low life slob who should be shot!

2. “I don’t see why I can’t do it. All my friends are doing it!”

- ___ A. He feels that he is treated unfairly
- ___ B. He wants to be liked by his friends
- ___ C. This person’s friends do something he doesn’t do
- ___ D. All his friends are bums who should be shot!

3. “If I don’t learn how to communicate with my boss, I won’t get a raise.”

- ___ A. He feels that he is treated unfairly
- ___ B. He doesn’t know how to communicate with his boss
- ___ C. He wants to learn new behaviors
- ___ D. His salary is connected to his communication skills

4. “I have to set-up unrealistic expectations.”

- ___ A. He can’t stop making unrealistic expectations
- ___ B. He feels trapped
- ___ C. He has expectations
- ___ D. He knows when he is being unrealistic

5. “I’m feeling much better now! I can see how some of the things I was doing just made me unhappy.”

- ___ A. Some behavior he engaged in was related to some internal state
- ___ B. He has feelings
- ___ C. He has much more control of his life now
- ___ D. He fixed himself so he shouldn’t be shot

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In the following sentences, please state what is presupposed and also identify the major presuppositional structure.

1. "If the cat meows, again, I'll have to put him outside."
2. "It was her friendly smile that made me walk up and say Hi."
3. "If only he had come home on time, the party wouldn't have gotten out of control."
4. "People have always given me more to do than I can handle."
5. "His easy-going personality is good P.R. for our company."
6. "Stop watching over your shoulder."
7. "Only you can learn this."
8. "Either she goes to the store or I do."
9. "First the winds came then the rain."
10. "Opera makes me want to cry."