



Dictionary.com (<http://www.dictionary.com/>)



Word of the Day (<http://www.dictionary.com/wordoftheday/>)

theday/)

Translate (<http://translate.reference.com/>)

Games (<http://www.dictionary.com/fun>)

Blog (<http://blog.dictionary.com/>)

(<http://www.dictionary.com/>)

definitions ▾

threat



GET AN

**ALCATEL ONETOUCH FIERCE™ XL**  
with Windows 10

NO OVERAGES

NO ANNUAL SERVICE CONTRACTS

GET IT NOW

CALL 1-855-430-0466

Details >

# threat

[thret]

Examples

Word Origin

See more synonyms on Thesaurus.com

(<http://www.thesaurus.com/browse/threat>)

⅔ noun

1. a declaration of an intention or determination to inflict punishment, injury, etc., in retaliation for, or conditionally upon, some action or course; menace:  
*He confessed under the threat of imprisonment.*

2. an indication or warning of probable trouble:  
*The threat of a storm was in the air.*

3. a person or thing that threatens (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/threaten>).

verb (used with or without object)

4. *Archaic.* to threaten (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/threaten>).

## Origin of threat

Quick Survey (<https://dictionary.typeform.com/to/hbSmW9>)

Middle English  
(<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/middle-english>)

Old English  
(<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/old-english>)

900

before 900; (noun) Middle English *threte*, Old English *thrēat* pressure, oppression; cognate with Old Norse *thraut* hardship, bitter end; (v.) Middle English *threten*, Old English *thrēatian* to press, threaten

### Related forms

#### **counterthreat**, NOUN

Dictionary.com Unabridged  
Based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2016.  
Cite This Source (<http://www.dictionary.com/cite.html?qh=threat&ia=luna>)

### Examples from the Web for threat

#### Contemporary Examples

But this war jumps from city to city, depending the *threat* of the day.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/article/pentagon-doesnt-know-how-many-people-it-s-killed-in-the-isis-war.html?source=dictionary>)  
source: <http://www.thedailybeast.com>

Nancy A. Youssef (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/nancy-a-youssef.html?source=dictionary>)  
January 6, 2015

Now, we talk about reducing the stigma of this disease—yet we've treated a visitor living with it as a *threat*.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/>)

Quick Survey (<https://dictionary.typeform.com/to/hbSmw9>)

source=dictionary) <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/10/18/they-may-sound-like-a-good-idea-but-travel-bans-for-ebola-won-t-work.html?source=dictionary>  
 Abby Haglage (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/abby-haglage.html?source=dictionary>)  
 October 17, 2014

Notably, 52% of Republicans said Iran can be contained with diplomacy and 17% said it is not a *threat* at this

## British Dictionary definitions for threat

# threat

/θret/

## noun

1. a declaration of the intention to inflict harm, pain, or misery
2. an indication of imminent harm, danger, or pain
3. a person or thing that is regarded as dangerous or likely to inflict pain or misery

## verb

4. *an archaic word for threaten* (/browse/threaten)

## Word Origin

Old English; related to Old Norse *thraut*, Middle Low German *drōt*

Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition  
 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins  
 Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012  
 Cite This Source (<http://www.dictionary.com/cite.html?qh=threat&ia=ced2>)

## Word Origin and History for threat

*n.*

Old English *þreat* "crowd, troop," also "oppression, menace," related to *þreotan* "to trouble, weary," from Proto-Germanic *\*threutanan* (cf. German *verdrießen* "to vex"), from PIE *\*trud-* "push, press" (cf. Latin *trudere* "to press, thrust," Old Church Slavonic *trudu* "oppression," Middle Irish *trott* "quarrel, conflict," M.Welsh *cythrud* "torture, torment, afflict"). Sense of "conditional declaration of hostile intention" was in Old English.

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2010 Douglas Harper

Cite This Source (<http://www.dictionary.com/cite.html?qh=threat&ia=etymon2>)

## Idioms and Phrases with threat

# threat

see: triple threat (</browse/triple-threat>)

The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary

Copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

Cite This Source (<http://www.dictionary.com/cite.html?qh=threat&ia=ahdi2>)

About (<http://content.dictionary.com/>) Terms (<http://www.dictionary.com/terms>)  
Privacy (<http://www.dictionary.com/privacy>) Careers (<http://content.dictionary.com/about/careers>)  
Apps (<http://www.dictionary.com/apps>) Contact Us (<http://content.dictionary.com/about/contact>)

© 2016 Dictionary.com, LLC.

Quick Survey (<https://dictionary.typeform.com/to/hbSmW9>)