threat

[thret]

Examples

Word Origin

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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

verb (used with or without object)

4. Archaic. to threaten.

Origin of threat
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

Examples from the Web for threat

Contemporary Examples

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

Now, we talk about reducing the stigma of this disease—yet we've treated a visitor living with it as a threat.
Notably, 52% of Republicans said Iran can be contained with diplomacy and 17% said it is not a threat at this time.

British Dictionary definitions for threat

threat

/thərt/  
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

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Word Origin and History for threat

n.
Old English *þreat* "crowd, troop," also "oppression, menace," related to *þreotan* "to trouble, weary," from Proto-Germanic *þreutanan* (cf. German *verdrießen* "to vex"), from PIE *tréudh₂- "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.

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**Idioms and Phrases with threat**

**threat**

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