



SINCE 1828

GAMES

BROWSE THESAURUS

WORD OF THE DAY

threaten

Dictionary

Thesaurus

threaten verb

 Save Word

threat·en | \ 'thre-tən  \

threatened; threatening \ 'thret-niŋ , 'thre-tən-inj\

Definition of *threaten*

transitive verb

- 1 : to utter [threats](#) against
- 2 **a** : to give signs or warning of : [PORTEND](#)
*// the clouds **threatened** rain*
- 2 **b** : to hang over dangerously : [MENACE](#)
*// famine **threatens** the city*
- 3 : to announce as intended or possible
*// the workers **threatened** a strike*
- 4 : to cause to feel insecure or anxious
*// felt **threatened** by his brother's success*

intransitive verb

- 1 : to utter threats
- 2 : to portend evil