

# L113: Coursework III (graded)

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## 1 Semantics of “promise” and “threaten”

Consider the following corpus examples of the two verbs “promise” and “threaten”:

- Some people don’t understand what they have **promised**.
- The Cow Pie Raffle game is simple, and **promises** to be fun for everyone involved.
- It **threatened** to rain the whole time but we were lucky.
- I would tell the man that it’s against the law to take your own life, and if he **threatens** you one more time with suicide that you’ll call the police.

Describe the two verbs’ semantics, in particular commonalities and differences, in terms of the dimensions of lexical semantics treated in the course. Such an analysis might include, for instance, the following phenomena: the verbs’ word senses, selectional preferences and sentiment aspects; the frame-semantics these verbs participate in; figurative language involving these verbs; and verbs with similar semantics, if such verbs exist. This is not an exhaustive list, but a list of suggestions. You may support your analysis with a corpus study if you wish.

Write up your findings as an essay of no more than 2500 words, and submit your coursework (including a wordcount) by Tuesday 15th January 2013 at 4.00pm.