

## Unit 68

## Chance and opportunity

### a Chance of -ing

We say: 'someone **has a (good) chance of doing** something' (passing an examination, winning a match etc.):

- **Do you think I have a chance of passing** the examination?
- **We have a very good chance of winning** the match.

You can also say **any/no/little/much chance**:

- **I don't think I have much chance of finding** a job.
- **He has no chance of passing** the examination.

You can also say '**stand a chance of doing something**':

- **He doesn't stand a chance of passing** the examination.

You can also say '**stand a chance of doing something**':

- **He doesn't stand a chance of passing** the examination.

You can also say '**What are the chances of something (happening)?**':

- **What are the chances of success?**
- **What are my chances of passing** the examination?

You can also say '**there is a chance of something happening**' or '**there is a chance that something will happen**':

- **Is there any chance of you lending** me some money until tomorrow?
- **There is a chance that I'll be late home** this evening.

### b Chance to do something

We use '**chance to do something**' when **chance** = time or opportunity to do something. ('Chance of -ing' is less usual with this meaning.)

- **'Have you read the book I lent you?'** **'No, I haven't had a chance to look at it yet.'** (= I haven't had time / an opportunity to look at it)
- **We didn't have much chance to talk** to each other when we last met.  
(= we didn't have much time/opportunity to talk)

### c Opportunity

We normally say '**opportunity to do something**' (**opportunity of -ing** is also possible):

- **I have the opportunity to study** in the United States for a year. **Do you think I should go?** (= the chance to study)
- **After the lecture there will be an opportunity to ask questions.**

You can also say **any/no/little/much/plenty of/more opportunity**:

- **Do you have much opportunity to speak** English? (= much chance to speak)
- **We live near the mountains, so we have plenty of opportunity to go** skiing.

Do *not* say '**possibility to do something**':

- **I had the opportunity to study** in Canada. (*not* 'possibility to study')