

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')