

# 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 '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)
- These days I don't get **much chance to watch** television. I'm too busy.

### 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')

# UNIT 68 Exercises

68.1 Complete these sentences using **chance of -ing** or **chance to ...**. Each time use the verb in brackets.

Examples: Do you think I have a chance of passing the examination? (pass)  
These days I don't get much chance to watch television. (watch)

- 1 I'd like to go to the concert but I've got no ..... tickets now. They'll have sold out. (get)
- 2 He was badly injured in the crash but the doctors at the hospital say that he has a very good ..... completely. (recover)
- 3 'Have you written that letter to Jack?' 'No, I didn't have a ..... it today. There was so much else to do.' (do)
- 4 There isn't much ..... a cheap apartment in the city centre. (find)
- 5 We're always very busy at work. We don't get much ..... to each other. (talk)
- 6 A lot of people have applied for this job. If I apply, I don't think I stand a very good ..... it. (get)
- 7 I'm afraid I didn't have the ..... you while I was in London. I was only there for three days and there wasn't enough time. (visit)
- 8 If you work hard at your job, you have a good ..... (be promoted)
- 9 I don't think there is much ..... the rain ..... The sky is very grey. (stop)

68.2 Now you have to write sentences using **much opportunity to do something**.

Example: 'Do you speak English very often?'

'No, I don't have much opportunity to speak English.....'

- 1 'Do you see many foreign films?' 'No, I don't have much .....
- 2 'Do you go fishing very often?' 'No, I don't .....
- 3 'Do you travel much?' 'No, .....
- 4 'Do you use your English much?' 'No, .....
- 5 'Do you go to the theatre very often?' 'No, .....

68.3 Now use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

Examples: I'd like to have the opportunity to go to the United States.....

I don't think there is much chance of my going to England in the near future.....

- 1 I'd like to have the opportunity .....
- 2 I don't think there is much chance of my .....
- 3 People today have much more opportunity .....
- 4 These days I don't get much chance .....
- 5 Where I live there is plenty of opportunity .....
- 6 But there isn't much opportunity .....
- 7 I think I have a good chance .....
- 8 I've never had the opportunity .....