

possibility[ˌpɒsəˈbɪləti] *n*

- возможность, вероятность**
possibility of success [of failure] - возможность успеха [провала /неудачи/]
within the range /the bounds/ of possibility - в пределах возможного
a degree of possibility - степень вероятности
there's no possibility of recovery - на выздоровление нет никаких надежд
there is no possibility of my going there - совершенно невозможно /исключено/, чтобы я туда пошёл
if by any possibility I am not there ... - если по каким-л. обстоятельствам/причинам, почему-л./ меня там не будет ...
- часто pl** возможности, перспективы, виды на будущее
infinite possibilities - безграничные /неограниченные/ возможности
to have great possibilities - иметь большие возможности
to foresee all possibilities - предвидеть всё возможное /все возможные варианты/
to allow for all possibilities - предусмотреть всё
the new invention contains wonderful possibilities - новое изобретение имеет большое будущее
there are great possibilities in this scheme - этот план весьма перспективен /открывает большие возможности/

possibility

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

pos·si·bil·ity [possibility possibilities] *BrE* [ˌpɒsəˈbɪləti] * *NAmE* [ˌpɑːsəˈbɪləti]**noun** (pl. **pos·si·bil·ities**)

- uncountable, countable** the fact that sth might exist or happen, but is not certain to
 - ~ **(that...)** There is now no possibility that she will make a full recovery.
 - ~ **(of sth/of doing sth)** He refused to rule out the possibility of a tax increase.
 - It is not **beyond the bounds of possibility** that we'll all meet again one day.
 - Bankruptcy is a real possibility if sales don't improve.
 - What had seemed impossible now seemed a **distinct possibility**.**Opp:** ↑impossibility
- countable, usually plural** one of the different things that you can do in a particular situation
 - to **explore /consider/investigate** a wide range of **possibilities**
 - to **exhaust** all **the possibilities**
 - Selling the house is just one possibility that is open to us.
 - **The possibilities are endless**.
- countable, usually plural** something that gives you a chance to achieve sth
Syn: ↑opportunity
 - The course offers a range of exciting possibilities for developing your skills.
 - Career possibilities for women are much greater than they were fifty years ago.
- possibilities plural** if sth has possibilities, it can be improved or made successful
Syn: ↑potential
 - The house is in a bad state of repair but it has possibilities.
 - He was the first to see the possibilities of the plan.

Word Origin:late Middle English: from Old French **possibilite**, from late Latin **possibilitas**, from **possibilis** 'able to be done', from **posse** 'be able'.Thesaurus:**possibility noun****1. U, C**

- There is a real possibility of a tax increase.

chance • • **prospect** • • **probability** • • **likelihood** • • **odds** •

a possibility /a chance/the prospect/the probability/the likelihood/the odds **of** sth
a possibility /a chance/the prospect/the probability/the likelihood/the odds **that...**
increase/reduce the possibility/chance/probability/likelihood/odds

2. C

- We need to explore a wide range of possibilities.

option • • **choice** • • **alternative** •

(a/an) **real /realistic/viable /practical/obvious** possibility/option/choice/alternative
look at/limit the possibilities/options/choices/alternatives
a **number/range** of possibilities/options/choices/alternatives

3. C, usually pl.

- The class offers a range of exciting possibilities.

opportunity • • **chance** • • **occasion** • |especially **business window** •possibilities/the opportunity/the occasion **for** sth**take advantage of** the possibilities/an opportunity/the chance/a window**Possibility or opportunity?** Note that you cannot say 'a/the possibility to do sth'; in these cases use **opportunity** or **chance**:

- I had the opportunity/chance to spend a year in Paris.

✗ I had the possibility to spend a year in Paris.

Synonyms:

option

choice • alternative • possibility

These are all words for sth that you choose to do in a particular situation.

option • something that you can choose to have or do; the freedom to choose what you do: ▫ As I see it, we have two options... ◇

▫ Students have the option of studying abroad in their second year.

Option is also the word used in computing for one of the choices you can make when using a computer program: ▫ Choose the 'Cut' option from the Edit menu.

choice • the freedom to choose what you do; something that you can choose to have or do: ▫ If I had the choice, I would stop working tomorrow. ◇ ▫ There is a wide range of choices open to you.

alternative • something that you can choose to have or do out of two or more possibilities: ▫ You can be paid in cash weekly or by cheque monthly: those are the two alternatives.

option, choice or alternative ?

Choice is slightly less formal than **option** and **alternative** is slightly more formal. **Choice** is most often used for 'the freedom to choose', although you can sometimes also use **option** (but not usually **alternative**): ▫ If I had the choice/option, I would... ◇ If I had the alternative, I would... ◇ ▫ parental choice in education ◇ parental option/alternative in education. Things that you can choose are **options, choices** or **alternatives**. However, **alternative** is more frequently used to talk about choosing between two things rather than several

possibility • one of the different things that you can do in a particular situation: ▫ We need to explore a wide range of possibilities. ◇ ▫ The possibilities are endless.

Possibility can be used in a similar way to **option, choice** and **alternative**, but the emphasis here is less on the need to make a choice, and more on what is available

with/without the option/choice/possibility of sth

a(n) **good/acceptable/reasonable/possible** option/choice/alternative

the **only** option/choice/alternative/possibility **open to sb**

to **have** a/an/the option/choice of **doing sth**

to **have no** option/choice/alternative **but to** do sth)

a **number/range** of options/choices/alternatives/possibilities

possibility

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

possibility **possibilities** S2 W2 /ˌpɒsəˈbɪləti, ˌpɒsɪˈbɪləti \$ ˌpɑː-/ BrE " AmE " noun (plural

possibilities)

[Word Family: noun: ↑possibility ≠ ↑impossibility, the impossible, ↑possible; adverb: ↑possibly ≠ ↑impossibly; adjective: ↑possible ≠ ↑impossible]

1. [uncountable and countable] if there is a possibility that something is true or that something will happen, it might be true or it might happen:

▫ There's always a possibility that he might go back to Seattle.

▫ the possibility of an enemy attack

▫ There was no possibility of changing the voting procedure.

▫ A peace settlement now looks like a real possibility.

▫ Tomorrow, there's a remote possibility of snow on high ground.

▫ They might get married – it's not beyond the bounds of possibility.

▫ The study raises the possibility that dieting is bad for your health.

2. [countable usually plural] an opportunity to do something, or something that can be done or tried

possibilities for/of (doing) something

▫ exciting possibilities for reducing costs

▫ Archer began to explore the possibilities of opening a club in the city.

▫ The US has not yet exhausted all diplomatic possibilities (=tried everything possible).

▫ the range of possibilities offered to students

3. **have possibilities** if something has possibilities, it could be made into something much better **SYN have potential**:

▫ The house has great possibilities.

• • •

COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 1)

adjectives

▫ **a strong/good possibility** (=something that is very likely) There is a strong possibility that the drug causes similar damage in humans.

▫ **a real possibility** (=something that is quite likely) At this moment, a recession is a real possibility.

▫ **a distinct possibility** (=something that is quite likely) I knew there was a distinct possibility that I might fail my degree.

▫ **a remote/faint possibility** (=something that is not very likely) There's no point worrying about such a remote possibility.

verbs

▫ **a possibility exists** The possibility exists that he misunderstood the data.

▫ **something remains a possibility** War remains a possibility.

▫ **consider a possibility** Police in Glasgow are considering the possibility that the death may be drugs-related.

▫ **raise a possibility** (=say or show that something may happen or may be true) The government has raised the possibility of an early election next year.

▫ **rule out/exclude a possibility** (=say that something will definitely not happen or is definitely not true) We can't rule out the possibility that there will be more redundancies.

phrases

▫ **there is a possibility that** There is a possibility that files could be lost if the system crashes.

COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2)

■ verbs

- **consider a possibility** (=think about whether you should take an opportunity) We even began to consider the possibility of moving there permanently.
- **explore a possibility** (=think carefully and find out about an opportunity) You may want to explore the possibility of setting up your own business.
- **offer a possibility** (=make an opportunity available) Technology offers exciting possibilities to designers.
- **open up a possibility** (=make a new opportunity available) His recent performance opens up the possibility for him to compete in the Olympic Games.
- **exhaust the possibilities** (=try everything possible) I was determined not to give up until I had exhausted all the possibilities.

■ adjectives

- **new possibilities** New possibilities lay before him.
- **exciting possibilities** The city offers many exciting possibilities for young people.
- **tremendous possibilities** (=very good or important opportunities) This discovery opens up tremendous possibilities for cancer screening.

possibility

Freakuency Pack

12500 **1009**^{MCW}

15000 **271**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** **POSSIBLE** 169977

possible 88846

possibles 54

possibilities 9142

possibility 24584

possibly 21927

impossible 23307

impossibly 1094

impossibility 960

impossibilities 63

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

17322 **1745**²⁴⁵⁴⁹ **nn1**

32 **131094**³⁵ **nnu**