

# Resourcefulness in Finding Accurate Word Usage

## POSSIBILITY

Is this sentence correct? "There is a small possibility to occur a construction boom."

The resources are available to you. The problem is, are you resourceful enough to use them?

### 1. Collins COBUILD Dictionary

In this case, we're lucky. The pattern appears in both the definition ("there is a possibility that" + clause) and in the sample sentence. ("...the possibility that" + clause).

**possibility** 1. If you say there is a **possibility** that something is the case or that something will happen, you mean that it might be the case or it might happen. EG *We were not in the least worried about the possibility that sweets could rot the teeth... Tax on food has become a very real possibility.* 2. something that you are able to do and that you might do. EG *I considered the possibility of joining the Communist Party.*

So, the sentence could be written as either "There is a small possibility that a construction boom will occur," or "There is a small possibility of a construction boom occurring."

If you can't find what you want in the dictionary, go to your next resource:

### 2. BNC (E>G, Writing, "Word Usage: The British National Corpus")

#### Results of your search

Your query was:

possibility

Here is a random selection of 50 solutions from the 6995 found...

A1N 351 Yet many of the crowd were kept interested by the possibility of victory, which is, I suppose, what derbies are about.

A5C 381 The combination of results needed to deprive the Republic of their first appearance in the World Cup finals is so fantastic that the possibility can be discounted.

A6S 606 The first is that **the possibility of a revolution occurring** in a country where capitalism was poorly developed made him aware of the problem of setting up too rigid a sequence for human evolution.

A70 191 For women officers there's always **the possibility that they'll have to deal** with the perpetrators of sexual abuse and violence.

A7L 650 This position was not only the culmination of ideas that had been knocking around in Balcon's mind for the past six years or so, it was also a declaration of a new confidence in the possibility of British cinema, and a final casting off of the inferiority complex that had impaired British filmmakers since 1918.

ACJ 1089 Among intermediate positions, one possibility is to draw an analogy with the offence of blackmail, holding that any unwarranted demand for sex with menaces should amount to rape, the menaces being either sufficient to influence an ordinary person or sufficient to influence the mind of this victim.

ACR 638 Mr. Justice MacPherson said **there was a possibility John Davies had not fully understood** the terms of an injunction granted in October last year requiring removal of the mobile homes.

AK2 651 Another possibility is very late switching --; which Tory canvassers thought they detected.

B3C 1967 This course gives students **the possibility of taking** two languages together with a vocationally oriented study of aspects of modern Europe.

C8R 1137 It is, however, by no means beyond the bounds of **possibility that the issue could arise again.**

C8T 2255 When, quite soon after the funeral, seeing how calm she was, he had imagined that possibility he had been surprised at his reluctance to believe it.

CDC 393 In the growing meeting of religions, he will want to discuss with Buddhist friends **the possibility of equating** dhamma with the Christian concept of God, though without the personal elements.