

BBC Learning English
Authentic Real English 地道英语
Not enough room to swing a cat
空间极其窄小



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(Li is accompanying Finn as he goes flat hunting)

- Finn:** And this is flat number five, Li. I'm happy you came along to help me find a nice place to live.
- Li:** Renting a new place is a big step, Finn. And this one looks good. Look here. Big windows, lots of light coming in. Isn't it nice?
- Finn:** Yeah. This is good but...
- Li:** It's been painted recently, look, the wooden floor is lovely!
- Finn:** Yes, it's lovely but... Li... there's not enough room to swing a cat!
- Li:** A cat? Are you sure? No problem. I saw one outside. I'll be back in a minute.
- Finn:** Li, what is this?!
- Li:** It's a cat, Finn. I didn't know you liked swinging cats around but ... well, this cat was just outside and you can try swinging it... well, just be gentle with it.
- Finn:** Oh, no, Li. I don't swing cats. In English, you use the expression "there is not enough room to swing a cat" when you want to say that a place is much too small.
- Li:** What a relief! 这么说 "there is not enough room to swing a cat" 这个短语的是用来形容一个地方太小了, 连转身的余地都没有。
- Finn:** "Not enough room to swing a cat" is today's expression in Authentic Real English. Let's hear some examples of how to use it.

Examples

The library at my college was really small - there wasn't enough room to swing a cat!

I can't work in this office. There's not enough room to swing a cat! Where will I put my books and my computer?

Finn: So, not enough room for me in this flat, Li. But thanks for coming with me all the same..

Li: So what are you going to do, Finn?

Finn: I think I will just move in with my brother.

Li: Is his flat small... could you swing a cat there?

Finn: In my brother's house cats rule! He loves furry little animals.

Li: Well, I think this cat might join you there. Let's go, Finn. Bye.

Finn: Bye. And no cat was harmed in the recording of this programme. Isn't that right, Tubby?

Cat: Meow.