

SWING YOUR TAIL

A traditional shanty

Lyrics

**Swing your tail and swing your tail
Swing last night and the night before**

*Mind how you swing your tail
Mind how you swing your tail.*

When you wake up in the morn, *Mind how you &c.* Hear the driver honk the horn *Mind how you &c.*
 Swing it up and swing it down *Mind how you &c.* Swing it when you go to town *Mind how you &c.*
 Swing it low and swing it high *Mind how you &c.* You can nearly reach the sky *Mind how you &c.*
 Swing it right up to the moon *Mind how you &c.* Swing it in the afternoon *Mind how you &c.*
 Swing it underneath the bridge *Mind how you &c.* Swing it cold, straight from the fridge *Mind how you &c.*
 Swing it when you're on the bus *Mind how you &c.* Tell the driver, 'Don't make a fuss!' *Mind how you &c.*

Signs

Swing 2 hands, closed, swing at side of body.	Tail Move hand (shape as if holding a glass) from side of waist up & outwards. (squirrel)	Mind, Careful Both Indexes move from under eyes, forward & down, then flex.
Last Index at side of chin, moves backwards.	Night 2 flat hands facing you, either side of face, swing across & down.	Before, Prior R flat hand makes small jump up L arm, from L hand.

Potential new lyrics

Wake-up Both thumbs and indexes open beside the eyes; open eyes too.	Morning R hand, bent, touches L side of chest, then R.	Driver Both hands mime steering movement.
Honk horn Mime action.	Up Index pointing finger, palm towards you, makes small upward movement.	Down Index pointing finger makes small downward movement.
Go Index finger swings outwards, upwards & forwards.	Town Hand like a claw makes small downward movement.	Low Flat hand, facing down, moves down.
High Bent hand above head makes upward, then short forward movement.	Reach R bent hand moves across body to touch L. palm with fingertips.	Sky Both bent hands move apart from above head.
Moon Thumb & index touching, (fingers out) hold up in 'sky'; open & close to trace moon.	Afternoon 2-finger-point hand touches horizontally across chin, then twists to point away from you.	Underneath, Below Both flat hands, L above R. R hand makes small, horizontal, anticlockwise circles.
Cold Both closed hands make 'shiver' movements at sides of body.	Fridge Closed hand held out swings inward (close fridge door).	Bus Both hands mime steering movement; thumb moves a little forward (hailing bus).
Don't R. fist bumps on top of L. Then both hands move across each other, then spring apart & open. Head shakes.	Complain, Fuss Claw shaped hand, palm upwards, brushes up chest x2. Show feeling on face.	

Ideas for use in school

There is lots of potential for adding signs, or arranging it to include a *Sam button singer. A Sam button singer could sing the repeated lines 2 & 4. The other singers could hold onto the last note of the line to bridge the possible 'gap'. This song is very 'flexible'. You and your singers can easily make up more verses.

*Sam (song/speech/sound and music) button – this is what I call the voice output communication devices like Step by Step, BigMac, 4Talk4 etc.

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