

# The Story of the Chinese Room

*Imagine a person (who does not understand Chinese) inside a sealed room, receiving written Chinese characters as input through a slot in the door. The person inside follows a detailed rulebook (written in a language they can already understand) that instructs them on how to manipulate and arrange the Chinese symbols correctly. The person then outputs an appropriate set of Chinese characters, which from those outside appears to be a meaningful response in Chinese.*

If you are a person OUTSIDE the room, and do not know anything about what is inside the room, which of the following could be true?

1. The room speaks fluent Chinese.
2. The room understands Chinese.
3. The room doesn't understand Chinese.
4. There's a little Chinese man inside the room.
5. Please don't ask me such irritating questions!

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