

# Hi, I'm Robo-teacher: Droids with human faces wheeled into class to teach English

Almost 30 egg-shaped robots have started teaching English at primary schools in South Korea.



The 3.3ft high machines have a TV panel that displays a female Caucasian face and can wheel around the classroom while speaking to the students. The robots are also able to read books and dance to music moving their head and arms.

But despite appearances the robots, developed by the Korea Institute of Science of Technology, are not autonomous beings.

They are actually controlled remotely by English teachers living in the Philippines, who can see and hear the children via a remote control system.

Cameras then detect the teachers' facial expressions and reflect them on the avatar's face. The robots will teach after-school classes at 21 schools in the south-eastern city of Daegu.

'Well-educated, experienced Filipino teachers are far cheaper than their counterparts elsewhere, including South Korea,' Sagong Seong-Dae, a senior scientist at KIST, said.

Apart from reading books, the robots use pre-programmed software to sing songs and play alphabet games with the children.

[...]

[Daily Mail Reporter](#)  
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