

## More than reality

You may have seen some popular idols, comedians and other celebrities in real life, but what if I tell you that there are idols that are not real?

In recent years, virtual idols are so popular that they have knocked out a lot of real-life idols off the stage. It started in the 2000s when idols were liked by a lot of people. At the same time, anime was also popular in Japan. So, people decided to combine them into virtual, anime-like singers. People referred them as 'Virtual Idols'. These idols aren't real at all, but they are all very popular.

Virtual Idols are liked by a lot of people. All of my classmates used to follow virtual idols like Miku. The reason virtual idols are so popular is that they look like anime characters, which are extremely popular among younger generations. Their popularity grew even more during the COVID-19 pandemic because real life idols couldn't perform on stage.

This trend brings convenience during the hard time of the past two years. . For instance, people can watch their idols at home and this entertainment is perfect for people who cannot go out during the pandemic. However, it has also some negative effects. Some people might get addicted and spend all their money on them. Older generations are less affected as they don't like this trend at all, because they are reluctant to follow new trends.

Will this trend be here to stay? I wonder. Recently my classmates have switched their attention to a local band MIRROR, a canto-pop boy group that blew up at around 2020 to 2021. With more local music groups who can meet fans face-to-face after the pandemic, virtual idols are likely to get less attention.