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## Is there any role for Virtual Reality in EAP?

Trying to teach speaking skills for EAP online can be a challenge. The lack of a sense of place, the reluctance of students to express themselves in online rooms as well as connection issues can make practising presentation and seminar skills quite challenging.

Virtual Reality might offer an online solution to those issues. The ability to locate students in the same online 'space' can help recreate a more authentic feeling of being together while the ability to talk from behind an avatar might help reduce any reticence in communicating.

To explore whether it's possible to create a sense of place and identity in an online environment, two teachers at the English Language Teaching Centre, University of Sheffield taught a 5-week trial course for 9 Japanese students fully in Virtual Reality using specialised software by a company called Immerse.

In this talk we'll explain how the course was delivered, what we discovered about teaching EAP in virtual reality and what this might mean for the future of online EAP delivery.