

If

If an adult walks along a street bouncing a ball, should they be considered childish, odd, a little bit deficient in the marbles department? If an adult walks along a street bouncing a ball with a dog in tow, they would much more likely be considered to be a kind dog owner about to throw a favourite toy for their pet to chase and catch.

If a middle-aged woman walks along a street singing 'The Sun Has Got His Hat On' for all to hear, should she similarly be seen as eccentric, loony, somewhat lacking in sandwich sufficiency at an al fresco eating event? If a middle-aged woman walks along a street singing 'The Sun Has Got His Hat On' for all to hear including her grandchild in a buggy, she would much more easily be seen as a fun and attentive Grandma.

If a person walks along a street, apparently talking to themselves, or worse, to other, invisible people, they would almost certainly be looked upon as 'psycho' or 'schizo', people would carefully avoid the obviously sectionable idiot. If a person walks along a street, apparently talking to themselves, or worse, to other invisible people, whilst wearing a Bluetooth ear-piece, then they may be seen as an important person, of business, fielding problems and challenges, whilst on their lunch hour, or a person with so many friends, that they have to compete for phone time.

The advent of the Bluetooth ear-piece was an absolute blessing in my life, because just by wearing this little device, I can carry out conversations with my 'accomplices' as I call them, with complete immunity, because people assume that I am conducting business, not trying to quell the number of voices that accompany me every waking minute of every day, everywhere I go.

I call them my Accomplices because they feel like part of a group, a team of different facets which make up me. They can be comforting, like the one I call 'Auntie', who's usually supportive and complementary, or they can be intimidating like the one I've named 'Sir' who bosses me about and sometimes makes me feel small. I have a couple of friendly ones; 'Zoe' and 'Ruby' who play tricks on me occasionally, but are generally good fun to have around. The only one I really can't get along with is 'Mr Black'. He constantly questions me and my choices. He berates me if I make a mistake, which I inevitably do when he's around, and he makes suggestions of actions I should take or things I should do or say.

The good thing about having so many 'Accomplices' is that when Mr Black chooses to start persecuting me, there's nearly always Auntie around to soothe me or I can have a joke with Zoe or Ruby, but it seems that Mr Black does take precedence over the group; I really get the feeling he's in charge.

I am allowed to go out 'into the community' now, and with the aid of my trusty ear-piece, I can talk freely with my Accomplices whilst out and about, without raising any objection or anxiety.

Next time you see a person talking into their Bluetooth ear-piece, try to work out if they are a business person with multiple colleagues or a popular person with countless friends, or an odd schizophrenic like me, trying to placate Mr Black with my phoney phone.