

mum, everyone has one /2/ **lucy** speaking

Friday. Lucy's new phone rings before our alarm clock. It's Auntie Nancy, **wishing** her happy birthday. How did she get the number so fast? I don't know, because I **was unable to eavesdrop on** the second line - big **disadvantage**.

Forget the cornflakes, Lucy is **too busy dressing up** her black phone, which suddenly **becomes** silver. "It's an alternative cover," she explains, **patiently**. The phone has more **outfits** than her first doll, but **at least** it has a **credit limit**. **The deal is that** when Lucy **has used up** the L20 **voucher**, she buys her own **with** her **pocket money**.

I **pack Lucy off** on the school bus where, half an hour **later**, she gets her second call of the day. Her father cannot **resist ringing** to **test it out**. "She answered it **saying, 'Lucy speaking'**," he **reports**. **Has** our daughter **grown up that** fast? **It turns out** that school doesn't allow mobiles **during class**. Very **sensible**.

By the end of the evening, Lucy is clearly **thrilled**. I myself am exhausted, **reminding** her to **keep an eye on** her voucher limit and **not to** use her headset, **just in case**. "You told me I **had to wear** it yesterday," she said, confused. My husband **and I** are also **confused** by the recent report **suggesting** that headsets can increase **radiation risks, even though** a Philips spokesman **assures** me: "**There is no scientific evidence to show** that mobile phones can **damage health**." Oh well, **we've survived** the microwave oven **so far...**