**1072 Working part-time jobs**

Luisa begins our dialog by saying to Max are you still here? This is one of those questions you ask when you’re surprised about something obviously Luisa can see that Max still wherever they are. She says I thought you got off at 3:00. To get off of work means to finish your work schedule to be able to leave the place where you work. If someone says what time do you get off they mean what time do you get off of work? When do you stop working? What time do you stop working? Max says I picked up a second shift. A shift refers to a period of time when people work usually this term is used for jobs when people work at that particular location more than eight hours or that there are people working at that location for more than eight hours, it’s might be for example a place where there are someone working 24 hours a day, well one person is not going to work 24 hours straight, so they break up the day into shifts so if you work the day shift you’re working probably from 8:00 in the morning to around 4-5 in the afternoon if you’re working the night shift you will be working perhaps 4-5 in the afternoon to midnight, if you’re working what we call the graveyard shift you’re working probably from 11 o’clock at night or midnight to seven or eight in the morning. Those are shifts then. The visions of the work day interplays that usually it’s open for more than eight hours. Max says he picked up a second shift. To pick up here means to get, to obtain he was working one shift and now he’s picked up a second shift which means of course he’s working more than eight hours a day. Why has Max done if well he says I could use the money. When someone says I could use the money he means that he would be able to benefit from getting more money, he has some need of extra money. Luisa says but I thought you had another part time job in the evenings. A part time job is a job usually that is less than forty hours per week. In the United States forty hours a week is considered full time, if it’s less than forty hours, we might call it part time. Luisa says that Max had another part time job. Max says I normally do but the restaurant where I work has been cutting back my hours. When we talk about someone cutting back on something we mean that he is using less of it or he is reducing the number of something. The two-word phrasal verb to cut back then means to reduce the number of something in this case we’re talking about the restaurant where Max works cutting back his hours. His hour refers to number of hours that he can work. Max says he’s trying to pick up as many extra shift here as I can. Luisa then asks and don’t you work at the amusement park on the weekend? An amusement park is a large park usually that has lots of what we would call rise in them, places where people especially children can play games and get into the machines that go really fast for example Disneyland is an example of an amusement park here in southern California. Luisa asks if Max is still working at the amusement park on the weekend. He says I do half the year meaning I do work there part of the year but it’s winter and the park only keep a skeleton crew on during these months. Max is saying that the amusement park where he normally works in the summer time only has a skeleton crew during the winter time. The phrase skeleton crew refers to a very small number of workers the minimum number of workers you can have at a place. If a business doesn’t have very many customers it might have very few employees and we might call that a skeleton crew, if during busy times the company has more employees. This is the case with the amusement park it has a skeleton crew. The word crew, just refer to a group of people the word skeleton is normally used to describe the bones of your body or the bones of an animal. Max says in the meantime meaning during this winter season I’m working for a temp agency which gives me short term assignments. A temp agency is a company that finds people temporary jobs the word temp is short for temporary meaning short term not permanent not for a long time. There are of course many companies that find workers find people to work for companies that just need workers for a short period of time. Max says the temp agency gives him short term assignments. Short term refers to a short amount of time perhaps a week perhaps even a day. I used to work for temp agencies when I was in college. I would call up every morning and see if they had a new work for me and they would send me to jobs that would last maybe one day maybe two or three days, sometimes as long as a month. Temp agencies are very popular now especially when the economy is not doing so well companies don’t want to hire employees, full time. Luisa says that I don’t know how you juggle all these jobs? The verb to juggle usually refers to throwing objects up in the air and keeping them up in the air we refer to someone who does this as a juggler but here the verb means to handle many different things as the same time, to be able to do many different things as the same time. Max says I have no choice I have no other option. I have to piece together an income if I want to pay rent. To piece together something means to put together to assemble. An income refers to the money you get for working. Max is saying that he has to work a little bit at this job and a little bit at that job in order to make enough money to pay for his rent. Luisa says have you ever thought about going back to school to qualify for other work, something full time? To qualify for something means to have the skills and or education in order to be able to do something so for example if you want to be a doctor you have to study for many years in order to qualify for that kind of job, at least I hope you study many years if you’re a doctor if not please don’t be my doctor. Luisa is asking if Max has thought about going back to school to qualify for some kind of job that would be full time that would be forty hours a week. Max says sure all the time meaning I have thought of it a lot. He says I’d like a better job one with benefit and a reliable salary. Benefits refers to things such as health insurance and vacation time and sick pay money you get when you can’t work because you’re sick these are common benefits that you get when you have a full time job. Salary refers to money that you get to work at a certain place usually by the month or by the year when we talk about the salary we’re talking about money you get regardless of how many hours you work there are two kinds of ways of getting paid one is by the hour when you get paid a certain amount of money for every hour you work, another way of getting paid is by salary when you’re getting paid on a salary we would say you are getting a certain amount of money and hour expected to do your job even if it takes more than the normal forty hours a week. Luisa says what’s stopping you? What’s preventing from going back to school? Max says I have to pay for something call food. Max is making a joke here he’s saying that he can’t afford to go back to school he doesn’t have enough money to go back to school because in addition to paying his rent he also has to eat and to eat he has to buy food. He finishes by saying I haven’t met my fairy godmother yet. A fairy godmother is a character from children’s stories, stories that we tell children usually involving a woman who has some sort of magical powers. The fairy godmother is a common character in certain fairy tales that are told to children. These are made up stories about magical events. Here Max is using the expression to mean that he has to found someone who just going to give him money to pay for his expenses and to go to school. Now let’s listen to the dialog this time at a normal speed.