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| **ESL Podcast 1072 – Working Part-Time Jobs** |

**Part II**

Luisa begins the dialogue by saying to Max **“**Are you still here?”. This is one of those questions you ask when you surprise about something obviously. Luisa said can see that Max still wherever they are. She says “I thought you **got off** at 3:00”. To get off a 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 a work, when do you stop working, what time do you stop working.

Max says “I **picked up** a second **shift”**. A **shift (s-h-i-f-t)** refers to period of time when people work, usually this term uses for job when people work at that particular location more than 8 hours or that there are people working at that location for more than 8 hours. Might be for example, a place where there are someone working 24 hours a day. Wheel, one person is not going to work 24 hours straight, so they break up a day into shifts. So, if you work a day-shift, you’re working probably from 8 in the morning around 4-5 in the afternoon. If you work in night-shift, you’re working perhaps from 4-5 in the afternoon to midnight. If you’re working or we call graveyard shift, you’re working probably from 11 o’clock at night or midnight to 7 or 8 in the morning. Those are shifts then, the vision of the workday, in the place that usually opens for more than 8 hours.

Max said he **picked up** a second shift. To pick up here means to get, to obtain. He was working one shift, and now he picks up a second shift which means of course working more than 8 hours a day. Why has Max done it well? He says “I **could use** the money”. When someone says “I could use the money”, he means that he was 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 40 hours/week. In the US, 40 hours/ week is considered full time, if it’s less than 40 hours, we might call it part-time. Luisa said she thought 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 someone cutting back on something, we mean that he is using last of it or he is reducing the number of something. The tool of phrase 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 hours refer to the number of hours that he can work.

Max said he’strying to pick up as many extra shifts here as I can. Luisa says than ask “And don’t you work at the **amusement park** on the weekend?”. And **amusement (a-m-u-s-e-m-e-n-t) park** is a large park, usually that has lot of what we would call rides in them, palace where people - especial children can play games and get into the machines that go really fast. For example, Disneyland is an example of amusement park in California. Luisa asks Max still working at the amusement park on the weekend.

Max says “I do half the year (meaning I do work there part of the year), but it’s winter and the park only keeps a **skeleton crew** on during these months”. Max is saying that the amusement part where he normally works on some of time only has the **skeleton crew** during the winter time. The phrase **skeleton (s-k-e-l-e-t-o-n) crew (c-r-e-w)** refers to very small number of worker, the minimum number of worker you can have of that place. It’s a business doesn’t have very many customers, it might be have very few employees, and we might call that a skeleton crew, if during busy time, the company has more employees. This is the case with amusement park, it has the skeleton crew. The word “crew” just refers to group of people. The word “skeleton” is normally used to describe the bone of your body or the bone of animal.

Max says “In the meantime (meaning during the winter season), I’m working for a **temp agency**, which gives me **short-term** assignments”. A **temp (t-e-m-p) agency** is a company that finds people temporary jobs, word “temp” sort for temporary meaning short-term, not permanent, not for long-time. They are of course many companies that find workers, find people to work for company just need workers for short period of time. Max said the temp agency give him short-term assignments. Short-term refers to a short amount of time, perhaps a week, perhaps even a day. Are you used to work for temp agency? When I was in college, I would call up every morning and see they had any works for me and they would send me to job that would last maybe one day, maybe 2 or 3 days, sometimes as long as a month. Temp agency is very popular, now it’s specially when the economy is not doing so well. Companies don’t want higher employees full-time

Luisa says “I don’t know how you **juggle** all these jobs”. The verb “to **juggle” (j-u-g-g-l-e)** usually refers to throwing objects up in the air and keeping up in the air. We refer to someone who does job that says “juggler”, but here the verb means to handle many different things at the same time, to be able to do many different things at 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 (p-i-e-c-e) together** something means to put together, to assemble and **income (i-n-c-o-m-e)** refers to the money you get for working. Max is saying that he has to work a little bit at this job, 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 (q-u-a-l-i-f-y)** for something means to have the skill 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 are a doctor, if not, please don’t be mind doctor. Luisa is asking of Max has thought about going back to school to qualify for some kind of job that would be full-time, that would be 40 hours a week.

Max says “Sure, all the time (meaning I had thought of it a lot)”. He says “I’d like a better job, one with **benefits** and a reliable **salary”**. **Benefits (b-e-n-e-f-i-t-s)** refers to things such as health insurance and vacation time and sick pay (money you get when you can’t work because you sick), these are common benefits you get when you get full-time job. **Salary (s-a-l-a-r-y)** 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 are talking about the money you get, regardless of how many hours you work. The 2 kinds of way of getting pay, one is by the hour when you get pay a certain amount of money for every hour you work. Another way of getting pay is by salary, when you’re getting pay on a salary, we would say “You are getting a certain amount of money and are expected to do your job even if it takes more than the normal 40 hours a week”.

Luisa say “What’s stopping you? (What’s preventing you going back to school?)”.

Max says “I have to pay for something called “food,””. Max is making a joke here, he said that he can’t afford to go back school, he doesn’t have enough money to go back to school because the decision depends he rent, he also has to eat and take it yet by food. He finishes by saying “I haven’t met my **fairy godmother** yet!”. A **fairy (f-a-i-r-y) godmother (g-o-d-m-o-t-h-e-r)** is a character from children stories, stories that we tell children, usually involve in a woman who has some sort of magical powers. The fairy godmother is a common character in certain Fairy Tail that we told children, these are made of story about magical events. Here, Max is using its expression to mean that he hasn’t found someone who is yet 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.