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

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| Luisa: Are you still here? I thought you **got off** at 3:00.   Max: I **picked up** a second **shift**. I **could use** the money.   Luisa: But I thought you had another **part-time** job in the evenings.   Max: I normally do, but the restaurant where I work has been **cutting back my hours**, so I’m trying to pick up as many extra shifts here as I can.   Luisa: And don’t you work at the **amusement park** on the weekend?   Max: I do half the year, but it’s winter and the park only keeps a **skeleton crew** on during these months. In the meantime, I’m working for a **temp agency**, which gives me **short-term** assignments.   Luisa: I don’t know how you **juggle** all these jobs.   Max: I have no choice. I have **to piece together** an **income** if I want to pay rent.   Luisa: Have you ever thought about going back to school **to qualify for** other work, something **full-time**?   Max: Sure, all the time. I’d like a better job, one with **benefits** and a reliable **salary**.   Luisa: What’s stopping you?   Max: I have to pay for something called “food,” and I haven’t met my **fairy godmother** yet!    Script by Dr. Lucy Tse |

Luisa begins a dialog by saying to Max: Are you still here? This is one of those questions you ask when you’re surprised at something obviously. Luisa considers that Max still wherever there 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. Someone says what time do you get off? They mean what time do you get off of work when 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 a period of time when people work usually this term is used for job 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 may be for example a place where there are someone working twenty four hours a day. Well one person is not going to work twenty four hours straight so they break up the day into shifts. So if you work the day shift you’re working probably from eight in the morning to around four or five in the afternoon. If you’re working in a night shift you’ll be working perhaps from four or five in the afternoon to midnight. If you’re working what we called the graveyard shift you’re working probably from eleven o’clock at night or midnight to seven or eight in the morning. Those are shifts that the vision of the work day in the pace that usually is opened 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 picked up a second shift which means of course he’s working more than eight hours a day. Why has Max done this well, he says: I **could use** the money. When someone say: 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 per week is considered full-time, if it’s less than forty hours we may call it part-time. Luisa suggests 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 words phase of words 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 says: He’s trying to pick up as many extra shifts here as I can. Luisa then asks: And don’t you work at the **amusement park** on the weekend? An amusement a-m-u-s-e-m-e-n-t park is a large park usually that has lots of what we would call?? where people especially children can play games and get into the machines that go really fast for example Disney Land is an example of an amusement park here in Southern California. Luisa asks: Max’s still working at the amusement park on the weekends. He 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 park where he normally works in the summer time only has a skeleton crew during the winter time. The phrase skeleton s-k-e-l-e-t-o-n crew c-r-e-w refers to a very small number of workers the minimum number of workers you can have at that place. If the business doesn’t have many customers it may have a very huge employee and we may call that a skeleton screw. If during busy time the company has more employees this is the case with the amusement park it has a skeleton screw. The word crew just refers to a group of people. The work skeleton is normally used to describe the bone of your body or the bone of an animal. Max says: In the meantime-meaning during this winter reason, 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 job. The word temp is short form of 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 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 agency when I was in college. I would call up every morning they have any work for me. They would send me job that would last maybe one day maybe two or three days sometimes it’s 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 employee 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 said juggles 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 options. 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. An income i-n-c-o-m-e refers to the money you get from working. Max is saying that he had to work a little bit at this job and 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 skilled 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’s asking if Max had thought about going back to school to qualify for some kinds of jobs that would be full time that would be forty hours a week. Max says: Sure, all the time-meaning I had thought about 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 healthy insurance and vacation time and sick pay money you get when you can’t work because you’re sick. These are called benefits you get when you have a 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. We talk about the salary we’re talking about money you get regardless of how many hours you work. There’re two kinds of way of getting paid. One is by the hours 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 the salary we would say: you are getting a certain amount of money and are expected to do your job even it takes more than the normal forty hours a week. Luisa says: What’s stopping you? What preventing you from going back to school. Max says: I have to pay for something called “food,” Max is making 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 pay rent, he also has to eat and he has to buy food. Finishing 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 story. Story that we tell children usually involving a woman who has some sort of magical power. The fairy godmother is a common character in certain fairy tales that are told to children. We are made up stories about magical events. Here Max is using the expression to mean that he hasn’t found someone who just going to give him money to pay for his expenses and to go to school.

Not let’s listen to the dialog this time at a normal speed.