Luisa begins our dialog by saying to Max “Are you still here? This is one of those questions US when you describe about something obviously Luisa considers that Max still wherever they are, she says “I though you got off at 3 o’clock” to got off at 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 at work when you start working, what time do you start working. Max says “I picked up a second shift” a shift s-h-i-f-t refer 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 or as might be for example a place where there are someone working 24 hours a day, 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 eight morning to around four or five in the afternoon, if you work in a nine-shift, you’ll be working perhaps from four or five in the afternoon to midnight, if you work in what we call the great yard shift you’ll working probably from eleven o’clock at night or midnight to seven or eight in the morning, those are shifts then, the vision of the work day is that usually open for more than eight hours. Max says he picked up a second shift, to pick up here means to get to attend, he was working one shift he picked up a second shift it means of course he’s working more than eight hours a day. Why has Max done it? Well, he says “I could use the money” someone says I could use the money, he means that he would be able to benefit from getting more money, he has some needs of extra money. Luisa says “But I thought you have another part-time job in the evenings” a part-time job is a job usually that is less than forty hours per week, in United States forty hours per week has considered full time, it is less than forty hours we might call it part-time. Luisa thought that Max has 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’s using less of it or he’s reducing the number of something, the two phrase of verbs 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 a number of hour that he can works. Max says he trys to pick up as many extra shifts here as I can. Luisa says then asks “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 rights in them, place is where people especially children can play games and get into machines that go really fast for example Disneylands is an example of the amusement park here in Southern California. Luisa says and asks Max is still working at the amusement park on the weekend, he says “I do half the year (meaning I do work there apart 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 work he normally works in the summer time only have a skeleton crew during the winter time, a phrase skeleton s-k-e-l-e-t-o-n crew c-r-e-w refers to a very small number of worker, a minimum number of worker you can have at the place, it’s a business doesn’t have very customers as might have very few employees and we might call that a skeleton crew if during busy times the company has more employees this is a case with the amusement park can have a skeloton crew, the word crew just refers a group of people, the word skeleton is normally used to describe the bows of your body, the bows of 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 t-e-m-p agency is a company that finds people temperary job, the word temp is short for temperary meaning short term not permanent, not for a long time, they are of course many company that find workers, find people to work for company that just need workers for short period of time. Max says the temp agency gives him short-term assignments, short-term refers to short amount of time perhaps a week, perhaps even a day, I used to work for temp agency when I was in college, I worked a couple of every morning and see they have any work for me and they would send me to job that was 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 “I don’t know how juggle all these jobs”, a verb to juggle j-u-g-g-l-e usually refers to throwing objects up in the air and keeping up in the air, refers to someone who does it says juggle, but here the verb means to handle may different things to 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 a sample and income i-n-c-o-m-e refers to the money to 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 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 skills and 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 and other to qualify for that kind of job, at least I hope you study many years a doctor if not please don’t be might 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 benefits and a reliable salary” benefits b-e-n-e-f-i-t-s refer to things such as health insurance and vacation time and sick paid money you get when you can’t work because you sick, these are common benefits that 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 certain place, usually by a month or by a year when we talk about that salary we’re talking about money you get, we get of how many you work that’s two kinds of ways that’s getting paid, one is by the hour when you get paid a such amount of money for every hour you work, another way of getting paid is salary when you’re getting paid on salary we would say you are getting such an amount of money and they’re expected to do your job even if it takes more than a normal forty hours a week. Luisa says “What’s stopping you?” what’s preventing you from going back to school. Max says “I have to pay for something called “food” (Max is making a joke here he says that he can afford to go back to school he doen’t have enough money to go back to school because he doesn’t pay to his rent he also has to eat and to eat he has to buy food), finish it 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 women who has some show magical powers), the fairy godmother is a common character in such a fairy tail that is told to children, these are made of story about magical advance. Here, Max is using to expression to mean that he hasn’t found someone who gives him money to pay for his expenses and to go to school