**ESL 1072 Working part-time jobs**

Luisa begins the dialogue by saying to Max “Are you still here?” This is one of those questions used at when you’re surprised about something obviously.

Luisa can see that Max’s still wherever they are.

She says “I thought you **got off** at 3 o’clock”. **To get off of work** means to finish your work schedule to be able to leave the place where you work. Someone says that “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 period of time when people work. Usually, this term is used for jobs 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 that may be for example a place where there’s someone working 24 hours a day. Well one person is not going to work 24 hours straight, so they break up a day into shift. So if you work the day shift, you’re working probably from 8 in the morning to around 4 or 5 in the afternoon. If you work in night shift, you’re working perhaps from 4 or 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 7 or 8 in the morning. Those shifts are the division of the work day in a place that usually opens for more than 8 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 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 would be able to benefit from getting more money. He has some need of extra money. Luisa says that “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 per week. In United State, 40 hours per week are considered full-time. If it’s less than 40 hours we might call it part-time. Luisa 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 about someone cutting back on something, we mean that he is using less of this or he is reducing the number of something. The true at 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 hours refer to the number of hours that he can work. Max says “I’m 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?” And “**amusement” A-M-U-S-E-M-E-N-T** park is a large park usually that has lots of what we would call ride in them, places where people especial 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 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 keeps a skeleton crew on during these months. Max’s 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 a place. If a business doesn’t have very many customers that 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 … skeleton crew. The work **crew** just refers to a group of people. The work **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 T-E-M-P 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 a company that just needs 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. And I still work for temp agency when I was in college. I would call up every morning and see if they had any work for me. And they would send me 2 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” J-U-G-G-L-E usually refers to throwing an object up in the air and keeping it up in the air. We refer to someone who does this essay, juggle. 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 then says he has worked a little bit in this job and a little bit in 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 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’s then asking that 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 have thought of it a lot. He says I like a better job, one with benefits a reliable salary. Benefits B-E-N-E-F-I-T-S refers to things such that healthy … 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 S-A-L-A-R-Y refers to money that you get to work at a certain place usually by the month for or by the year. We’re talking about this salary; we’re talking money you get regardless of how many hours you work. The two kinds of ways of getting pay, 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 are expected to do your job even it takes more than the normal 40 hours a week.

Luisa says that what’s stopping you, what’s preventing you 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 … he pays 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’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 an expression to mean that he hasn’t found someone who’s just going to give him money to pay for his expenses and to go to school.