Working part-time jobs

Luisa begins our dialog by saying to Max are you still here? This is one of those question you ask when you surprise about something obviously. Luisa can see that Max still whoever they are, she says I thought you got off at three o’clock. 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 work, what time do you stop working. Max says I pick 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 8 hours, it might be for example a place there 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 8 in the morning to around four or five in the afternoon. If you work in the night shift you’re working perhaps from four or five in the afternoon till midnight. If you’re working what we call the grey yard shift you’re working probably from 11 o’clock at night or midnight to 7 or 8 in the morning. Those are shifts then. To vision of the work day in a place that usually is open more than 8 hours. Max says he picks 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 he’s working more than 8 hours a day. Why has Mas done this, 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 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 the United States forty hours per week are considered full time, if it’s less than forty hours we might call it part time. Luisa thought 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’re talking 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 talking about the restaurant where Max works cutting back his hours. His hours refers to the numbers 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 don’t you work at the amusement park on the weekend? Amusement park is a large park usually that has lots of what we would call ride in them place for people especially children can play games and get into the machine that go really fast for example, Disney Land is an example of an amusement park here in California. Luisa asks if Max still working at an amusement park at the weekend, he says I do haft the year mean that I do work there part of the year but in winter and the park only keep the skeleton crew on during these months. Max is saying that the amusement park was he normally work in the summer time only has the skeleton crew during the winter time, the phrase skeleton crew refers to a very small number of workers, a minimum number of worker you can have at a place, if the business doesn’t have a customers, they 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 can has a skeleton crew, the word crew just refer to a group of people, the words skeleton 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 finds workers, find people to work for a company that just need workers for a short period of time. Max says the temp agency give him a short term assignment. Short term refers to a short amount of time, perhaps a week perhaps even a day. I used to work for a temp agency when I was in college, I would call up every morning and see if they have any work for me. And they would send me to job that would last may be one day may be two or three days. Sometimes as long as a month. Temp agency 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 you juggle all these jobs. The verb to juggle usually refers to throwing objects upon the air, and keep them up in the air. We refers to someone who does it as a 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 said I have no choice, I have no other option. I have to peace together an income if I want to pay rent, to peace 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 education in order to 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 like a better job one with benefits 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 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 the money we get regardless of how many hours you work. There are two kinds of way 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’re getting a certain amount of money and are expected to go your job even if it takes more than the normal forty hours a week. Luisa say 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 the 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 paying to 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 God mother yet. A fairy God mother is a character from children stories, stories that we tell children usually involve in a woman who has some sort of magical power, the fairy god mother 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 hasn’t found someone who’s just going to give him money pay for his expenses and to go to school. Now let’s listen to the dialog this time at a normal speed.