**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! |

Luisa begins the dialog by saying to Max “Are you still here?” This is one of the questions the US often quire about something obviously. Luisa considers Max still whoever they are. She says “I though you got off at 3:00.” To get off at work means to finish your work’s schedule, to be able to leave the place where you work. Someone asks “What time do you get off?”, they mean what time do you get off of 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 a period of time when people work usually this term is used for job when people work at that particular location more than 8 hours or that people working at a location more than 8 hours, it might be for example a place where there is someone works 24 hours a day. Well, one person is not going to work 24 hours strate 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 round 4-5 in the afternoon. If you work in a night shift, you’re working perhaps from 4-5 in the afternoon to midnight. If you work when we call a great job shift, you’re working probably from 11 o’clock at night or midnight to 7 or 8 in the morning. Those are shifts that the reason in the workday, in the place that’s usually opened 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 1 shift and now he picks up the second shift, which means he’s going to work 8 hours per day. Why did Max 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 the 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 per week. In the United States, 40 hours per week is consider foul time. If it’s less than 40 hours, we might call it part-time. Luisa talks 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 means that he is using less of it or he is reducing the number of something. The two-work phrasal verb to cut back 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?” An amusement a-m-u-s-e-m-e-n-t park is a large park usually that has lot of where we call ride and place for people especially children can play games and get into the machine that goes really fast, for example. Disneyland is an example of amusement park in California. Luisa asks Max if he still work 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 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 people, the minimum number of worker you can have in that place. If the company doesn’t have many customers, they might hire very few employees and we might say that’s a skeleton crew. If in the busy time, the company will have more employees. That’s the case in the amusement park. It has a skeleton crew. The word crew refers to the people. The word skeleton is normally used to describe the bond of the body, the bond of the animal. Max says “In the meantime”- meaning in 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 find people temporary jobs- the work’s temp, temporary meaning short-term not permanent not for a long time. There are a lot companies that find workers, find people work for a company that just need workers work short period of time. Max says his term agency gives him short-term assignments. The short-term refers to the short amount of time perhaps a week, perhaps even a day. I used to work for a temp agency when I was in the college, I was called in every morning and see have any new work for me and then they said to me the job that would last maybe one day, maybe two or three days, sometimes, as long as a month. Temp agencies are very popular now, especial 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 j-u-g-g-l-e refers to throw objects to the other air in keep them in the air, we refer to someone who does they is 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. An income i-n-c-o-m-e refers to the money you get from working. Max is saying he has to work a little bit in this job, a little bit in that job in order to have 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 refers to have the skills and or the education in order to be able to do something. So, for example, if you want to be a doctor, you have to study in many years in order to qualify for that kind of job. At least, I hope I study many years to be a doctor, I’m not might be a doctor. Luisa is asking Max if he thought about going back to school to qualify for some kinds of job that would be full-time, that would be 40 hours per 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 something like health insurance and vacation time and sick pay- money you get when you can’t work because of your sick. There are the common benefits when you have a full-time job. Salary s-a-l-a-r-y refers to the money you get when you work for the certain place usually by the month or by the year. When we talk about the salary, we talk about the money you get regardless of how many hours you work. That is one kind of you’re paid -by the hours when you are paid for a certain the number of every hour you work. Another way of getting paid is salary. When we’re getting paid by salary-we say, we’re get the amount of money at an expected for your job more than 40 hours per 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 joking here, he says that he can afford for going back to school, he doesn’t have enough money to go back to school because beside he is paying for his rent, he also has to eat, to eat is to buy food. He finishes by saying “I haven’t met my fairy godmother yet.” My fairy f-a-i-r-y godmother g-o-d-m-o-t-h-e-r is a character from children’s story, the story that we tell children is usually involving the woman who has some of magical power. The fairy godmother is the common character in certain fairy tales that are told for children, for example, a magical story about. Here, Max is saying he didn’t find someone who gives him the money to pay for him the expenses and to go to school. Now, let’s listen to the dialogue this time at a normal speed.