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 our dialog by saying Max “Are you still here?” this is one of those question you ask when you surprise about something, obviously Luisa second sees Max still wherever they 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. When someone says “What time did you get off” they mean what time did you get off of work, when do you stop working, what time did you top 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 there are people working at that location for more than 8 hours, it might be for example a place where there are someone working 24 hours a day, well one person is not going to work 24 hours so they break up the day in to the shift so if you work the day shift, you’re working probably from 8 at morning turn around for 5 in the afternoon, if you’re working at the night shift you’re working perhaps from 4, 5 in the afternoon to midnight, if you’re working what we call the graver shift you’re working probably from 11 o’clock at night or midnight to 7 or 8 in the morning, those are shifts that division of the work day in the place that usually is open for more than 8 hours. Max says he picked a second shift, to pick up here means to get, to obtain, he was working one shift in now he will pick up a second shift which means of course in more of 8 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 the job usually is less than 40 hours per week, in United States 40 hours is considered full time, if it’s less than 40 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’s cutting back on something we mean that he’s using less of this or he’s reducing the number of something. The phrasal verb to cut back them 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 refers to the number of hours where he can work. Max says he is 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”, amusement a-m-u-s-e-m-e-n-t park is a large park usually that has a lot of what we would call right in the place people, especially children can play games and get into the, machine the go really fast. For example Disney land is an amusement park here in California. Luisa asks Max if they are still working at the amusement park on the weekend, he says “I do half the year” meaning I do 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 normally work in the summer time only has skeleton crew during the winter times. The phrase skeleton s-k-e-l-e-t-o-n crew c-r-e-w refers to very small number of worker, the minimum number of worker you can have in that place, if the business doesn’t have many customers they might have a few employees and we might call that the skeleton crew if during busy times, the company has more employees. This is the case the amusement park has skeleton crew, the work crew just refers to a group of people, the word skeleton is normally used to describe the bones of yr body or the bones of animals. Max says in the meantime meaning at 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 finds people temporary job, the word temp is short for temporary meaning short term, not permanent, not for a long time. They are of course many companies that finds worker, find people to work for company that just need worker for a short period of time. Max says he temp agency gives him short term assignments, short-term refers to amount of time, perhaps a week, perhaps even a day, I used to work for temp agency when I work at the college, I would call up every morning and see if they have any work for me and they would send me to job just would last may be one day, may be two or three days, sometimes as long as a month. Temp agency is very popular now especially when economy is not doing so well, companies don’t want to hire employees in the 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 keep them up in the air, we refer tom someone who does the burglar 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 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 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 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 to qualify for that kinds 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 40 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 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 s-a-l-a-r-y refers to money that you get to work at the certain place usually by the month or by the year. When we talk about the salary we are talking about money you get regardless of how many hours you work, there are two kinds of ways of getting pays, one is by the hour, when you get pay a certain amount of money for every hour you work, another way of getting pays is by salary. When you are getting on the salary we would say you are getting a certain amount of money and our expected do your job even if it takes more than 40 hours a week. Luisa says “What’s stopping you”, what’s preventing you from going back to the school. Max says “ I have to pay to 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 in addition of paying his rent, he also has to eat and to eat he has to food. He finishes by saying “I have to pay for something called “food,” and 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 characters from children’s stories, stories that we tell children usually involving a woman who has some sort if magical power. The fairy god mother is a common character in certain fairy tales that are told to children, these are made up story about magical events. Here Max is using this 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 the school. Now let’s listen to the dialog this time at a normal speed.