**LISTENING HOMEWORK**

**ESL Podcast 1072 – Working Part-Time Jobs**

Luisa begins a dialog by saying to Max “Are you still here?”.It’s a one of those questions US, when you’re surprise about something, obviously Luisa can see that Max is still wherever they are.

She said “I thought you got off at 3 o’clock”. To get off a work means to finish your work schedule, to be able to live a place where you work. Someone says “What’s time do you get off?” they mean what time do you get off a work, when do you stop working, what’s 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 there are people working at that location for more than 8 hours. Might be, for example, a place where there’s someone working 24 hours a day, well, one person is not going to work 24 hours strait, so they break up the day in two shifts, so a few work the dayshift, you working properly from 8 on the morning to around 4 and 5 in the afternoon. If you working a night shift, you’ll be working perhaps from 4,5 in the afternoon to midnight. If you working what we call the Great Eve yard shift, you’re working properly from 11 o’clock at night, or midnight to 7 or 8 on the morning. Those are shifts then, the vision 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, his word working one shift, then now he gets the second shift, it means of course he’s working more than 8 hours a day. Why has Max done his well, he says “I could use the money”. One 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 had another part-time job in the evenings”. A part-time job is a job usually that is lasting 24 hours per week, in US, 24 hours per week considers full-time. Even lasting 24 hours, we might call it part-time. Luisa talked 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 here using less of it or here reducing the number of something. The two words 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 hour refers to the number of hour that he can work. Max says he tries to pick up as many extra shifts here as I can.

Luisa says “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 large park, usually that has lots of what we call drive, a place when people, especially children can play games and get into these machines that go really fast, for example, Disneyland is an example of amusement park on California. Luisa says that Max still works in the amusement park on the weekend.

He says “I do half the year (meaning I do work there for a part of the year) but it is winter and the park only keeps a skeleton crew on during these months”. Max says the amusement park where he normally works in 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 the very small number of workers, the minimum number of workers you can have at a place. If a business doesn’t have many customers might be very few of employees, and we might call that the skeleton crew. If doing busy time, the company has more employees. This is the case with the amusement park, they have a skeleton crew. The word crew just refers to a group of people, the word skeleton normally is used to describe the bones of your body or the bones of an animal.

Max says “In the meantime (meaning during 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 job, the word temp is short of 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 company that just needs workers for short period of time. Max says the temp agency gives him short-term assignments. Short term refers to a short amount of time for have a week, perhaps even a day. I used to work for a temp agency when I was in college, I would call them every morning and seek they have any works for me, and they would send me two jobs, at least, may be one day, maybe two or three days, sometime as long as a month. Temp agencies are very popular now especially when the company is not doing so well, the company don’t want to hire employees full time.

Luisa says “I don’t know how you juggle all these jobs”. The verb juggle j-u-g-g-l-e usually refers throw object up in the air, and keeps it up in the air. We refer someone who doesn’t need that jay juggler, but here, the verb means to handle many different things as the same time, to be able to doing 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 you get for working. Max says they have no works, a little bit of this job, a little bit of that job in order to make that 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 these skills and other educations in order to be able to do something, so for example if you want to be a doctor, you have to studies for many years, and other to qualify for that kind of job, at least I hope you study in many years if you’re a doctor, if not, please don’t be my doctor. Luisa is asking if Max have thought going back to school to qualify for some kinds 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 refers to things suggest health insurance, 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 the certain place, usually by the month for by the year. When we talk about a salary, we’re talking about money you get, we less of how many hour you work. The two kinds of way of getting the pay, one is by the hour when you get a certain amount of money for every hour you work. Another way of getting pay by salary when you getting pay all salary, we would say you are getting certain amount of the money and the expects to do your job, even it takes more than the normal 40 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 joker, he says that he can effort to go back to school or he has enough money to go back to school, because he doesn’t pay his rent, also his eat, and his eat to buy food. He finishes 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 woman who has some all a magical power. The fairy godmother is a common character in certain fairy tales, that are told to children. They are made of story about magical events. Here Max is using the expression to mean he hasn’t found someone to give him money to pay for his expensive and to go to school.

Now let’s listen to a dialog this time at a normal speech.