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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 our dialog by saying to Max: “Are you still here?” It is one of your questions you ask when you’re surprised about something, obviously Luisa can see that Max still wherever they are. She says: “I though 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 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 2nd 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 is someone working 24 hours a day. Well, one person is not going to work 24 hours straight, so they break up the day into shifts. So if you work the **day shift**, you’re working probably from eight in the morning to around four, five in the afternoon. If you’re working the **night shift**, you’re working perhaps from four, five in the afternoon to midnight. If you’re working what we call the **graveyard shift**, you’re working probably from 11:00 at night or midnight to seven or eight in the morning. Those are shifts then. The vision of the work day in a place that usually it opens for more than 8 hours. Max says he picked off a 2nd shift. **To pick up** here means **to get**, **to obtain**. He was working one shift and now he picked up a 2nd shift which mean of course he’s working more than 8 hours a day. Why has 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 myth of extra money. Luisa says: “But I thought you had another part-time job in this evenings”. **A part-time job** is **a job usually that is less than 40 hours per week**. In United States, 40 hours per week it’s 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 it** or **he is reducing the number of something**. The two-word phrasal verb ‘**to cutback**’ 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 than 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 lots of** , what we would call, **rides in them**, the place where people, especially 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 Southern 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 is saying that the amusement park were he normally works on the summer time, only has a skeleton crew during the winter times. A phrase **skeleton** ‘s-k-e-l-e-t-o-n’ **crew** ‘c-r-e-w’ refers to **a very small number of worker**, the minimum number of worker you can have at a place. If a business doesn’t have very many customers, it might have very few employees and we might call that’s a skeleton crew if during busy times, the company has more employees. This is the case with the amusement park get has a skeleton crew. The word **crew** just refers to **a group of people**. The word **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 job**. 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 company that just need 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**, perhaps a week, perhaps even a day. I used to 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 to job 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, company 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’ usually refers to **throwing object up in the air** and **keeping them up in the air**. We refer to someone who does this 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 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 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 all 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 in many years if you are 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 benefit and a reliable salary”. **Benefits** ‘b-e-n-e-f-i-t-s’ refer 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 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 or by the year. When we talk about the salary, we’re talking about money you get **regardless of** how many hours you work. There are 2 kinds of way of getting paid, one is by the hours when you get paid a such 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 such amount of money as our expected to do your job, even if 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 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 to** paying his rent, he also has to eat and to eat here is 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’s stori**es, stories that we tell children usually **involve in** a women 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 of story about **magical events**. Here Max is using the 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 school.

“Now let’s listen to the dialogue this time at a normal speed”.