Luisa begins our dialog by saying to Max: “Are you still here?” This is one of those questions you ask when you’re surprised about something obviously Luisa can see that 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. If 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 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 maybe, for example a place where there are someone working 24 hours a day. Well. One person is not going to work 24 hours straight. So they break up the day into shift. So if you work the day-shift, you’re working probably from 8 in the morning to around 4-5 in the afternoon. If you’re working the night-shift, you’ll be working perhaps from 4-5 in the afternoon to midnight. If you’re working that we call the Great 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. The vision of the work day implies 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, he was working one shift and now he picked up a second shift which means 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 for getting more money. He has some need 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 40 hours per week. In the US, 40 hours per week could considers fulltime. If that is 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 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’re talking about the restaurant where Max works cutting back his hours. His hours refers to the number of hours that he can work. Max says he tries 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 lots of what we would call rides in them. Place where people especially children can play games and get into the machines that go really fast, for example Disneyland is an example of amusement park here in California. Luisa asked if Max’s still working at the amusement park on the weekends. 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’s 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 worker, the minimum number of workers you can have that place. If a business doesn’t have very many customers that might have very few employees and we might call that a skeleton crew. If during busy times, the company have more employees. This is the case which the amusement park can have a skeleton crew. The word crew just refers to a group of people. The word skeleton is normally used to describe the bone of your body or the bone 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 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 find workers, find people to work for companies that just need workers for a short period of time. Max says the temp agency gives him a 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 a college. I would call up every the morning and see if have any work for me. And they would send me to jobs that would last might be one day might be two or three days, sometimes as long as a month. Temp agencies are very popular now especially when a company is not doing so well, companies don’t want to hire employee fulltime. 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 keeping up in the air. We refer to someone who does this as a juggler. But here the verb means to handle many different things as 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, 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 fulltime” To qualify for something means to have the skills or an 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 many years if you’re a doctor, if not please don’t be might doctor. Luisa is asking if Max has thought about going back to school to qualify for some kind of job that would be fulltime that would be 24 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 helpful children and vacation time and sick-pay money you get when you can work because you’re sick. These are common benefits that you get when you have a fulltime job. Salary refers to money that you get to work at a certain place usually by the month or by the year. We talk about the salary we’re talking about money we get regardless of how many hour you work. The two kind of ways of getting pay. One is by the hour, when you get pay a certain amount of money for every hours you work. Another way of getting pay is by salary. When you’re getting pay on a salary we would say, you are getting a certain amount of money and are expected to do your job even if there 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 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 he paying his rent. He also has to eat, and to eat he has to pay food. He finishes by saying: “I haven’t met my fairy god mother yet” A fairy god mother is a character from children’s stories, the stories that we tell children usually involving a woman who has some sort of magical power. A fairy god mother is a common character in certain fairy tales that are told to children, there are made of stories 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.