Luisa begins the dialogue by saying to Max “Are you still here?”, this is one of those questions you ask when you surprise about something obviously Luisa says he can see that Max still wherever they are. Luisa 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 said 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 eight hours or that there are people working at that location for more than eight hours that might be for example a place where there are someone working 24 hours a day. Well, one person can’t work 24 hours street so they break up the day into shifts. So if you work the day shift, you’re working probably from eight in the morning till around four or five in the afternoon. If you work in the night shift, you’re working perhaps from four or five in the afternoon until the mid night. If you work in that we call “graveyard shift”, you work in probably from eleven o’clock at night or midnight to seven or eight in the morning. Those are shift terms, division of the work day in the place that usually opens for more than eight hours. Max says “I **picked up** a second **shift”,** to pick up here means to get to attain. He’s working one shift, but now he picks up a second shift would mean of course he’s working more than eight hours a day. Why has Max done it 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 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 a week and in United States 40 hours a week is considered full-time. If that is 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’s reducing the number of something. The two words of phrasal verb to cut back then mean 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 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 large park usually that has lots of what we would call ride on them, the place where people especially children can play games and get into the machines that go really fast, for example Disneyland it is the example of amusement park in California. Luisa asks Max if he work at the amusement park on the weekend. He says “I do half the year” meaning I do work there half 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 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 very small number of workers, the minimum number of workers you can have at that place. A business doesn’t have very many customers that may have few employees and we can call that is a skeleton crew, if in the busy time, the company will have more employees. It’s the case of amusement park, it has a skeleton crew. The word crew just refers to a group of people the word skeleton is normally used to describe the bond of your body or the body of animal. Max says “In the meantime” meaning during 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 work temporary jobs, the word temp is short of temporary meaning short term not permanent not for a long time. There are course companies that find workers find people work for companies that just need workers for short period of time. Max says that the temp agency gives him short-term assignments. Short-term refers to short amount of time perhaps a week perhaps even a day. I’m used to work for a temp agency when I was in the college; I worked for in the morning they have any work for me and they would send to me 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, companies don’t want to hire employee 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 in the air and keeping it up in the air. We refer to someone who doesn’t … juggle 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 and income i-n-c-o-m-e refers to the money you get for working. Max is saying that she 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 her 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 or 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 not be my doctor. Luisa is asking Max has thought about going back to school to qualify for some kinds of jobs so 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 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 I have a full time job. Salary s-a-l-a-r-y refers to the money you get to work at a certain place usually by a month or by a year, when we talk about salary we’re talking about the money you get regardless of how many hours you work. That is two kinds of ways of getting paid that one is by the hour when you get paid a certain amount of money for every hour you work. Another way of getting paid is by salary when you’re getting paid on salary we would say, you are getting a certain amount of money and that are practice you do your job even you take 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 condition of paying for his rent he also has to eat and to eat he has to buy food. Finishing 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 story, a story that we tell children usually involved in women who have some magical powers. The fairy godmother is the common character in the certain of fairy tales that told to children that made up the story about magical of them. Here Max is using this expression to mean that he hadn’t found someone who has money to pay for his expenses and to go to school. Now let’s listen to the dialogue this time at a normal speed.