**ESL 1072 Ngo Thu Thuy**

Luisa begins the dialog by saying to Max “Are you still here?”. It is one of the question you ask when you surprise about something obviously Luisa can see that Max still whatever 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, someome says what time do you get off, they mean what time do you get off of work when you start working, what time do you start 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 straight. So they break up the day into shifts, so if you work the day shift, you’re working probably from 8 at the morning turn around, for 5 in the afternoon. If you’re working at nine shift, you’re working perhaps from 4 or 5 in the afternoon to midnight. If you’re working what we call the graveyard shift, you’re working probably from 11 o’clock at night or midnight to 7 or 8 at the morning. Those are shifts that the vision of the work day in a place that usually is opened for more than 8 hours. Max says he picks up a second shift. To pick up here means to get, to obtain, he was working one shift and now he is picked up a second shift which means of course he is working more than 8 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 need 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 24 hours per week . In United State 24 hours per week is considered full-time, even less than 24 hours, we might call it part-time. Luisa talks 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 words phrases 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 “I’m 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?”. An amuseument a-m-u-s-e-m-e-n-t park is a large park usually that has lots of what we would call rides and a places where people especially children can play games and get into these machines that go really fast for example Disneyland is an example of an amusement park here in Southern California. Luisa asks if Max is still working at an amusement park on the weekend, he says “I do half the year” meaning I do work there part of the year but in the winter and the part only keeps a skeleton crew on doing these months. Max is saying that the amusement park were he normally works in the summer time only has a skeleton crew doing 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 workers, the minimum number of worker you can have that at place. If a business doesn’t have many customers it might have few employees and we might call that is skeleton crew if doing busy times the company has more employees. This is the case when amusement park can have a skeleton crew, the word crew just refers to 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 doing 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 temperary jobs the word temped short for temperary meaning short-term not permanent not for a long time. There are of course many companies that find worker find people to work for companies that just need workers for a 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 companies 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 objects off in the air and keeping them up in the air. We refer to someone who doesn’t as a 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 from 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 help 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 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 24 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 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, we talk about the salary we’re talking about the money you get regardless of how many hours you work there are two kinds of ways of getting pay 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 salsary, when you’re getting paid on a salary we will say you are getting a certain amount of money and I expected to do your job even if you take more than the normal 20 hours a week. Luisa says “What’s stopping you?”, what preventting you from going back to school. Max says “I have to pay for something called “food””. Max is making a joke he’s saying that he can’t afford to go back to school, he doesn’t have enough money to go back school because in his condition the paying is rent, he also has to eat and take 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 the character from children’s stories, stories that we tell children usually involve in a women who has some sort of magical powers, a fairy godmother is the common character in certain fairy tales that are told to children, these are made of stories about magical advance. Here Max is using the expression to mean he hasn’t found some who just is going to give him money to pay for his expenses and to go to school. Now let’s listen to the dialog this time at a normal speed.