**ESL 1072 – Working Part-time Jobs**

* Are you still here? I thought you got off at 3:00 o’clock.
* I picked up a second shift. I could use the money
* But I thought you had another part-time job in the evenings.
* I normally do, but the restaurant where I work had been cutting back my hours, so I’m trying to pick up as many extra shifts here as I can.
* And don’t you work at the amusement park on the weekend?
* I do haft a 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.
* I don’t know how you juggle all these jobs.
* I have no choice. I have to piece together and income if I want to pay rent.
* Have you ever thought about going back to school to qualify for other work, something full-time?
* Sure, all the time. I’d like a better job, one with benefits and a reliable salary.
* What’s stopping you?
* I have to pay for something called “food” and I haven’t met my fairy godmother yet.

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 can see that Max still wherever they are. She says “I thought you got off at 3:00 o’clock”. To get off of work means to finish your work schedule to be able to leave the place where you work. There’s someone said “What’s time do you get off?” they mean “what’s time do you get off of work? When’re you stop working? What’s time do you stop working?” Max says “I picked 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’s working at that location for more than 8 hours. It’s might be, for example, a place where there are someone working twenty four hours a day, well one person is not going to work twenty four 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 turn around for 5 in the afternoon. If you’re working the night shift, you will be working perhaps from four or five in the afternoon to midnight. If you’re working well we call the graveyard shift, you’re working probably from eleven o’clock at night or midnight to seven or eight in the morning. Those are shift 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, he was working one shift and now he pick up a second shift which means of course he’s 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 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 forty hours per week. In the United States forty hours per week is consider full-time. If it less then forty 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 when people cutting back on something, we mean that he is using less of it or he is reducing the number of something. The two-word phrase 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 number of hours that he can work. Max says he’s trying to pick up a many extra shifts here as I can. Luisa then asks “And don’t you work at the amusement park on the weekend?” And amusement a-m-u-s-e-m-e-n-t park is a large park usually that has lots of what we would ride in them, place of where people especially children can play game and get into the machine that go really fast. For example, Disney Land is an example of the amusement park here in South of California. Luisa asks if Max’s still working at an amusement park on the weekend. He says “I do haft 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 work in summer time only have 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 workers, the minimum number of workers you can have at the place. If a business doesn’t have very many customers, they might have very few employees, and we might call that a skeleton crew if during busy time, the company has more employees. This is the case with the amusement park that has 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 “It’s a meantime” meaning during this winter season, “I’m working for temp agency, which gives me a short-term assignments” A temp t-e-m-p agency is a company that find people temporary jobs, the word temp is short for temporary means 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 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 I have any work for me. And they would sent me to job that would last maybe one day, maybe two or three days. Sometimes as long as a month. Temp agency 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 object in the air and keep in them up in the air. We refer to someone who doesn’t as a juggler. But here the verb means to handler 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 a sample. 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 of 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 these skill and your 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 asking if Max has thought about going back to school to qualify for some kind of jobs 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 refer to think such as health concern and vacation time and sick pay, money you get when you can’t work because you sick. These are common benefits that you get when you have a full-time job. Salary s-a-l-r-y refers to money that you get to work at a certain place. Usually by a month or by a year. When we talk about a salary, we’re talking about money you get regardless of how many hours you work. There’s two kind of ways of getting pay, one is by the hour. When you get pay a certain amount of money for every hour 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 it takes more than the normal forty 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 just 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 isn’t paying his rent. He also has to eat and to eat, he has 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 the character from children’s stories, stories that we tell children. Usually involving a women who has some source of magical powers. The fairy godmother is a common character in certain fairy tails, that are told to the children. These are made up stories about magical advances. Here Max’s using this expression to mean that he hasn’t found someone who’s just going to give him money to pay for his expenses to go to school.