PODCAST 1072

Luisa begins the 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’s still where they are. She says “I thought you got off at 3 o’clock”. To get off a volk means to finish your work casual, 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 a volk, 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 their 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 a day straight so they break up the day into shifts. So a few words the day shift, you’re properly from 8 in the morning till around 4, 5 in the afternoon. If you work in the night shift you’ll be working perhaps from 11 o’clock at night or midnight to 7 or 8 in the morning. Those are shifts that division of the work day in a place that usually opened 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 picks 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 from getting more money, he has some need of extra money. Luisa says “But I thought you had another part-time job in the evening?”. A part-time job is a job usually that is less than 40 hours per week. In the United State, 40 hours per week would consider 4 times. 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. But two words phrasal verbs “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 as he 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 call ride in them, places where people, especially children can play games, and get into these 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 where he normally works in the summertime only has a skeleton crew during the wintertime. A 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 of place. If the business doesn’t have very many customers, it might have very few employees and we might call that a skeleton crew if during busy time the company has more employees. This is a case with the amusement park it has these 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” in short for “temporary” meaning short-term, not permanent, not for a long time. They 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 agencies when I was in college, I would call up every morning and see if they had a new work for me, and they would send me to jobs that would last maybe 1 day, maybe 2 or 3 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 for time. Luisa says “I don’t 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 them up in the air. We refer to someone who (…I don’t know this part) juggle but here the verbs 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 and income if I want to pay rent”. To piece 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’s saying that he has to work a little bit at this job and a little bit at that job in order to making up 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 or education in order to be able to do something. So, for example, if you want to be a doctor, you’ll have to study for many years in order to qualify for that kind of job. At least I hope you’ve studied many years if you’re a doctor, if not, please don’t be my doctor. Luisa’s 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’ve thought of this 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 helping choice, 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 ways of getting paid. The 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 a salary we’d say you are getting a certain amount of money and are expected to do your job even if it takes more than 40 hours a week. Luisa says “What’s stopping you”, what’s preventing you from going back to school. Max says “I’ve 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, 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 a character from children’s stories, stories that we tell children usually involve in a woman who has some sorts of magical powers. The fairy godmother is common character in certain fairy tales that are told to children, these are made-up stories about magical events. Here Max is using these expressions to mean that he hasn’t found someone who’s just going to give him money to pay for his expenses, and to go to school. Now listen to the dialog this time at a normal speed.