**ESLPod 1072**

Luisa: Are you still here? I thought you **got off** at 3:00.   
  
Max: I **picked up** a second **shift**. I **could use** the money.   
  
Luisa: But I thought you had another **part-time** job in the evenings.   
  
Max: I normally do, but the restaurant where I work has been **cutting back my hours**, so I’m trying to pick up as many extra shifts here as I can.   
  
Luisa: And don’t you work at the **amusement park** on the weekend?   
  
Max: I do half the 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.   
  
Luisa: I don’t know how you **juggle** all these jobs.   
  
Max: I have no choice. I have **to piece together** an **income** if I want to pay rent.   
  
Luisa: Have you ever thought about going back to school **to qualify for** other work, something **full-time**?   
  
Max: Sure, all the time. I’d like a better job, one with **benefits** and a reliable **salary**.   
  
Luisa: What’s stopping you?   
  
Max: 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’re surprised about something; not obviously the reason can see that Max’s still whoever they are. She says: “I thought you **got off** at 3 o’clock”. To get off of work means to finish your work schedule, to be able to leave the place where you work. Someone says: “What time do you get off?” They mean what time do you get off of work, when do 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 adores or that there are people working at that location for more than adores. This 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 eight per morning around for five in the afternoon. If you’re working in the night shift, you will be working perhaps from four five 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 seven or eight in the morning. Those are shifts that division of the work day in a place that usually is opened from more than adores. 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 adores 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 meet 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 State, forty hours per week is considered full time. If it’s less than forty hours, we might call it part-time. Luisa thought that Max have 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’s cutting back on something, we mean that he’s using less of it or he’s reducing the number of something. The tutor 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 the number of hour that he can work. Max says he’s 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 amusement a-m-u-s-e-m-e-n-t park is a large park usually that has a lot of, what we will call ride in them, place where people especially children can play games and get into machine that go really fast, for example Disney Land is an example of an amusement park here in 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 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 summer time only has a skeleton screw 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 that place. If a business doesn’t have many customers, it might have very few employees. And we might call that a skeleton screw if during busy time, the company has more employees. This is the case with the amusement park, it has a skeleton screw. The word screw just refers to a group of people. The word skeleton is normally used to describe the bones of your body or the bones of an animal. Max is 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 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 were sent me to job that would last, may be one day; may be 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 higher 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 up in the air and keeping it up in the air. We refer to someone who does this essay juggler. 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 a sample. And 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 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 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 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 kinds of job 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 refers to things such as healthy children 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 a salary. We’re talking about the money you get regardless of how many hours you work. There’re two kinds of way of getting pay. One is by the hour when you get pays a sort 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 sort 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 is making a jokey. 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 his intention to pay for his rent, he also has to eat and 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 stories, stories that we tell children usually involving a woman who has some sorts of magical powers. The fairy godmother is a common character in certain fairy tales that are told to children. These 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. Now let’s listen to the dialogue this time at a normal speed.