**ESL Podcast 1072 – Working Part-Time Jobs**

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 our dialogue by saying to Max: Are you still here? This is one of the question you ask when you suppose about something not obviously, Luisa considers that Max still wherever they are. She says I though you got off at 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 jobs 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 maybe 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 so they break up a day in to shift. So if you work the day shift, you’re working probably from 8 the morning turn aroundfor 5 in the afternoon. If you’re working at night shift you’ll be working perhaps from four five in the afternoon to mid night. If you’re working what we call the great yah shift, you’re working probably from 7 o’clock at night or mid night to 7 or 8 in the morning though the shift then. The vision of the work day in a place that usually open for more than hour. 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 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 needed 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 United States forty hours per week could consider full time. If it less than forty hours we might call it part time. Luisa says 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 lack of it, or he is reducing the number of something. The two words phrase of 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 hour refers to the number of hour that he can work. Max says he tries to pick up as many extra shifts here as I can. Luisa then says: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 lots of what we would call rides in them, place where people especially children can play games and get in to the machine that go really fast for example, Disneyland is an example of amusement park here in Southern California. Luisa asks Max still working at the amusement park on the weekend, he says:I do half the year, meaning I do work there past 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 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 a very small number of workers, the minimum number of worker use can have at a place. If a business doesn’t have very many customer that my xxxx very few employees and we might call that a skeleton crew, if during busy times, the company has more employees.

This is a case which is the amusement park, it has a skeleton crew. The word crew just refers to group of people. The word skeleton is normally used to describe the bone of your body, or the bone of 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 short for temporary meaning short term, not permanence, not for a long time. There are of course many companies that find workers, find people to work for company that just need worker for short period of time. Max says the temp agency gives him short term assignment. 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 an college. I worked xxx at every morning and see if I has any work for me. And they would send me to job that would last maybe one day, maybe two or three days. Sometimes a long is a month. Temp agencies are very popular now especially when the economy is not doing so well. Companies don’t want to hire employees for long time. Lusia says: I don’t know how you **juggle** all these jobs. The verb to juggle **j-u-g-g-l-e** usually refers to throw in objects up into the air, and keep in them up in the air. We refer to someone who does this 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. An 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 little bit at that job in order to make enough money to pay for his rent. Luisa suggests: 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 that Max has thought about going back to school to qualify for some kind 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 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 healthy children and vacation time and sick pay, money you get when you can’t work because you’re seek. 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 hour you work, there two kinds of ways of getting pay one is pay the hour. When you get pay a certain amount of money for every hour you work, another way of getting pay it by salary. When you getting pay on the 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 that: What’s stopping you? What preventing you from going back to school. Max says: I have to pay for something called “food”. Max’s 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 didn’t paying his rent, he also has to eat and to eat, xxx by 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 character from children’s stories. Story that we tell children usually involving a woman who has some source of magical powers. The fairy godmother is a common character in certain fairytale that are told to children, they are made up stories about magical event. Here Max is using the expression to mean that he hasn’t found someone who is just going to give him money to pay for his expensive and to go to school.