Luisa begins our dialogue by saying to Max :”Are you still here?” This is one of those question you ask when you surprised about something obviously Luisa can see that Max still wherever 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. If someone say what’s time do you get off, they mean what time do you get off of work when you stop working, what time do you stop working. Max says “ I pick up a second shift”. A shift refers to a period of time when people work, usually this term is used for job when people work at that particular location more then 8 hours or that there are people working at that location for more than 8 hours. That 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 straight, so they break up the day in to shifts. So if you work the day shift, you’re working probably form 8 in the morning to around four, five in the afternoon, if you’re working in the night shift, you’ll be working perhaps from four, five in the afternoon to midnight. If you’re working what we call the great yard shift, you’re working probably from 11 o’clock at night or midnight to 7 or 8 in the morning. Those are shifts than, to vision of the work day in a place that usually it’s open 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 picked up the 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 would be able to benefit from getting more money, he has some need of extra money. Luisa says “ But I thought you have 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 may be considered full time. If it’s less than 40 hours, we might call it part-time. Luisa thougt that Max had another part-time job. Max says “ I normally do but the restaurant where I work has been cutting back my work 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 word phrasal 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 “he’s trying to pick up as many extra shifts here as I can”. Luisa than asks”. And don’t you work at the amusement pack on the weekend?”. And amusement pack is a large pack usually that has lots of what we would call ride and then places where people especially children can play game and get in to the machine that go really fast, for example Disney Land is an example of an amusement pack here and another in California. Luisa asks if Max is still working at an amusement pack 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 keep 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 scew during the winter time. The phrase skeleton crew refers to a small number of workers, the minimum number of workers you can have at the place. If the business doesn’t have very many customers it’s might have very few employees and we might call that skeleton crew if during busy time the company has more employees. This is the case what the amusement pack has a skeleton crew, the work crew just refers to a group of people. The word skeleton is normally use to describe the bones of your body or the bones of a animal. Max says in the mean time meaning during this winter season I’m working for a temp agency which give me short term assigment. A temp agency is a company that find people temporary job, the word temp is short for temporary meaning short term, not permanent, not for a long time. There are of course many company that find workers, find people to work for company that just need workers for short period of time. Max says the temp agency gives him short term assigment. 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 say if they have any work for me. And they would sent me to job that would last maybe one day, maybe two or three days. Sometime as long as a month, temp agencies are very popular now, especially when the economy is not doing so well. Company don’t want to hire empoyee full time. Luisa says “ I don’t know how you juggle all these job”. The verb to juggle usually refers to thowing objects up in the air and keeping them up in the air. We refer to someone who does as a 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 together something means to put together, to assemble. An income 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 on 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 works? Something full-time?.” To qualify for something means to have the skill and education in order to be able to do something. So, for example if you want to be a doctor, you have to studied 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 forty hours a week. Max says “Sure, all the time” meaning I have thought of it a lot, he says “ I like a better job, one with benefits and a reliable salary”. Benifits refers to things such as heath insurance and vacation time and sick pay. Money you get when you can work because you’re sick. These are common benefit that you get when you had a full time job, salary refers to money that you get to work at a certain place usually by the month or by the years. When we talk about the salary, we’re talking about money you get regardless of how many hours you work. There’s two kinds of way of getting paid. One is by the hours when you get paid a certain amount of money for every hours you work. Another way of getting paid is by salary, when you’re getting paid on a salary we would say, you’re getting a certain amout of money and I expected to do your job even if it take 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 call 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 godmother is a character from children’s story, story that we tell children. Usually involving a women who has some sort of magical power. The fairy godmother is a common character in certain fairy tells that are told to children. These are made up story about magical events. Here Max is using the expression to mean that hasn’t found someone who’re just going to give him money to pay for his expenses and to go to school. Now listen to the dialogue this time at a normal speech.