

Gerund or Infinitive?

Last **night** I was **bored** so I decided to **call** my friend **Paul**. We arranged to see a **movie** at the **mall**. I intended to **meet** him at his **apartment** at **eight**; I **meant** to be on **time** but I was **late**. He had to **wait**. I **hoped** to **find** that he **wasn't** upset, but he **seemed** to be **vexed** that I'd neglected to **text**. We **hurried** to **make** it and we **managed** to arrive in **time**; but there were **tons** of people **standing** in **line**. We **attempted** to get **in** but we **failed** to get **tickets** for the **show**. It had sold **out**. Wouldn't you **know**?

I volunteered to buy **lunch** because I felt **bad**. He **hesitated** to **accept**. He was **mad**. He suggested that I **offer** to **fill** up his **car**, but I **refused** to go **along**; he was **taking** this too **far**. I said, "Let's **meet** halfway: at the **cafe**, I'll **pay** and then I **promise** to buy **gas** on another **day**." He **struggled** to believe me. I **claimed** to be **sincere**, but it's **true** my **money** often **tends** to disappear; but I pretended to **care** because I **needed** him to **share** his **car** the next **week**. I was preparing to **speak** at a **wedding** where my **friend** would be the **bride**. And Paul had **sworn** to **agree** to **give** me a **ride**.

I can't **afford** to buy a **car** or pay to **settle** my **debts**. I'd **like** to save up **money**, I just **haven't** done it **yet**. I **plan** to build **skills**; I'll grow to **learn** to pay **bills**. I can't **wait** to **earn** what I **deserve** to **earn**. When I **choose** to get **rich**, I'll have **money** to **burn**!

I **enjoy** hanging **out** with my friend **Mike**; but I **dislike** having to **wait**. I can't **tolerate** **always** being **late** to a **show** and then **lending** him **dough**. And I **resent** being **told**, "Oh **well**, Paul, you **know**, I'll pay you **back** what I **owe** and I anticipated **being** on **time**." I'm a **flexible** **guy** and **normally** I don't **mind** being a **bit** behind **schedule** but with **Mike** it's getting **crazy**. He's a **bum**; he's a **mooch**, yet **denies** being **lazy**. He **avoids** telling the **truth**. It never **ceases** to **amaze** me.

Time and time **again** I've **resisted** saying "**yes**" to his **plans**. I **can't** **understand** a man **wanting** this **life**. I keep **telling** him: "Consider one day **having** a **wife**. Do you **imagine** having **fun** and being **nice** will suffice?" But he **doesn't** **appreciate** **hearing** my **advice**. I **recall** recommending his **writing** things **down**. He **mentioned** buying a **notepad**, but I **never** see him **carrying** it **around**. We've **discussed** **setting** the **alarm** on his **phone**. He said he **couldn't** help **forgetting** it at **home**.

Does a **person** have to **practice** growing **up** to quit **acting** like a **kid**? I miss **doing** all the **things** I **did** as a **teen**. But **postpone** being an **adult**? I **mean**, Mike's like a **brother** to **me** at the **end** of the **day**. I'd **never** risk **losing** his **friendship**, so I'm **finished** saying, "**Here's** what to **do**" and "I **suggest** doing **that**." I just **hope** that he **picks** up the **slack** and gets on **track**.