

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 my 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.