

## Mike and Paul (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** **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**.