

nicht verdiente **und** *deserve it and will never*
 (obwohl er) sich nie *change.*
 ändern wird.

Er packte noch am gleichen *He packed his things the very*
 Tag, da er die Miete nicht *same day, since he couldn't*
 mehr bezahlen konnte **und** *pay his rent any more and his*
 sein Wirt ihm keinen *landlord didn't grant him any*
 Aufschub gewährte. *further credit.*

b Infinitive phrases (see 31.1)

- An infinitive phrase consisting of **zu** + infinitive alone is usually not preceded by a comma:

Ich hatte keine Zeit **zu** *I didn't have time to write.*
schreiben.

However, if the infinitive phrase consists of more than just the infinitive + **zu**, a comma may be added:

Die Dame bat mich, **ihr** *The lady asked me to help*
zu helfen. *her.*

- The verbs **brauchen** (*to need*), **haben** (*to have*), **pflegen** (*to be in the habit of*), **scheinen** (*to seem*), **sein** (*to be*) and **vermögen** (*to be able to*) are never separated by a comma from a following infinitive phrase:
 Sie **brauchen** sich keine *You need not worry*
 Sorgen um sie zu machen. *about her.*

Note that, unlike English usage, no comma is used after adverbs or adverbial and qualifying expressions such as **allerdings** (*however*), **erstaunlicherweise** (*surprisingly*), **im Gegensatz dazu** (*in contrast*), **meiner Meinung nach** (*in my opinion*):

Allerdings hat es mich *However, it did influence*
 doch sehr beeinflusst. *me a lot.*

Im Gegensatz dazu *Germany, in contrast,*
 schien Deutschland unter *seemed strong and*

Adenauer stark und *confident under Adenauer.*
 selbstsicher.

■ 2.3.3 Other punctuation marks

- Direct speech is introduced by a colon. German speech marks are 'back to front' by comparison with English, and the opening set of speech marks is placed on the baseline:

Dann sagte sie noch: „Ich *Then she added, "I'll be*
 bin gleich zurück.“ *right back."*

- An exclamation mark is traditionally required after an imperative (33):

Nehmen Sie doch ein Taxi! *Do take a taxi!*

Nowadays, however, a full stop tends to be used instead if the command is not a forceful one.

- An exclamation mark used to be traditional after the opening salutation of a letter:

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren!
 Liebe Sigrid!

This is now usually replaced by a comma, in which case the first word of the following sentence begins with a small letter (see example in 2.2.2).