



Figure 8.17 *a Part of the activity diagram for the 'Issue bike' use case, showing transition between two activities*
b Part of the activity diagram for the 'Issue bike' use case, replacing the transition with the Payment object and object flows between it and the two activities

It is useful to remember to name all activities with an active verb, such as 'Record customer details' or 'Calculate remaining deposit'. It is important not to confuse an activity, for example 'Archive hire details', with the state, 'Archived', that a Hire object can be in.

You need to be clear about the level of the activity diagram that you are drawing and what exactly it aims to describe, whether that is a high-level business workflow, a use case, or the details of an operation. An activity such as 'Add cost of hire to deposit' is appropriate as part of the activity diagram for the 'Get charges operation' (see Figure 8.2), but would be too detailed for a diagram describing the 'Issue bike' use case.

- 2 How do I know whether to include swimlanes, object flows or subsections in a diagram?

We have discussed all these techniques in the chapter because each of them offers a way of adding useful information to the basic activity diagram. The key word, however, is 'useful'. In the initial stages of development, for example, nobody has begun to think in detail about the objects in the system and there is no point in worrying about objects or object flows. In the same way, partitioning a diagram into subsets of activities can come in handy when the diagram is large and complex, but it should only be done to make the overall diagram easier to read – not just to look clever. Techniques and diagrams are tools that