Planning is a shortcut to action: with a little thinking ahead of time, you can avoid big mistakes and unnecessary effort! *But it's only useful in moderation.*

Say you want to start a new project: you dive right in, eager to get it done. All goes well until you suddenly hit a roadblock. Perhaps the problem was more complicated than you thought, or you're missing a necessary tool. Suddenly, you're unable to proceed—and incredibly frustrated!

But most unexpected blockers *can* be expected. If you planned ahead, you'd have known beforehand that you had the wrong type of screwdriver, or that you're out of a certain color of paint. This would have let you correct course or not start at all—either way, you wouldn't get into a groove only to screech to a halt.

Plans deal with simplifications of complex problems; this is both good and bad. **It's cheaper to think ahead—but it's also easier to miss rotten trees for the forest.** *To learn your grocery store is out of a common ingredient, you have to go shopping!* To foresee all problems, you need to do everything ahead of time—but you can't.

Simply by planning, you can predict (and avoid) most problems. But truly comprehensive planning is *just as bad as none*: it's jumping straight into action and hashing out the details as you go.

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