GERUND

The Subject of a sentence:
Living in London is very expensive
Smoking is prohibited

After a preposition:
Give up smoking
Carry on reading
How about going to the beach?
Before saying anything
Without asking anybody
I feel like going home
I’m fed up with living here
There’s no point in asking Tom

The most common verbs followed by the -ing form are:

- admit, appreciate, avoid, can’t help, can’t stand, carry on, consider, delay, deny, detest, dislike, enjoy,
- fancy, finish, give up, imagine, involve, mention, mind, miss, postpone, practise, resist, risk, suggest.

Verb + object + -ing - que alguien haga/hiciera algo

I insisted on John attending the meeting
The police prevented me from parking on Main Street
I congratulated Anne on passing the exam
They accused me of stealing the money
I thanked him for helping me

Expressions “to” + -ing

to look forward to
to object to

to be used to

Note the use of the -ing form after:

1. As well as working for Microsoft, he works for Coca Cola
   Besides

2. In spite of living in Jerez, I don’t like sherry
   Despite

3. Instead of playing football, I played tennis

4. I like / love / hate playing golf
   BUT I would like to play

5. What about going to the beach on Saturday?
   How about
Remember / Forget / Stop / Go on (Keep on) / Regret

With these verbs the difference is connected with time. The -ing form refers to things that happen earlier (before the remembering, forgetting, etc takes place); the infinitive refers to things that happen after the remembering, etc.

A) REMEMBER + -ing = remember what one has done, or what has happened (haber hecho)
   I shall always remember meeting you for the first time.
   REMEMBER + to = remember what one has to do
   Remember to go to the post office, won’t you?

B) FORGET + -ing = forget what one has done, or what has happened
   I shall never forget seeing the Queen
   FORGET + to = forget what one has to do
   She’s always forgetting to give me my letters

C) STOP + -ing = stop what one is doing, or does
   I really must stop smoking (dejar de ..)
   STOP + to = make a break in order to do something
   Every half hour I stop work to smoke a cigarette

D) REGRET + -ing = be sorry for what has happened (lamentar haber ..)
   I don’t regret telling her what I thought
   REGRET + to = be sorry for what one is going to do
   I regret to inform you that your request has been denied

E) TO BE INTERESTED:

With interested, the -ing form refers to what will (or may) happen, and the infinitive refers to what has happened:

To be interested in + -ing = interested by the idea of doing something
   I’m interested in working in Switzerland
To be interested + to = interested by what one learns or experiences
   I was interested to read in the paper that a new school is being built

F) LIKE + -ing = enjoy
   I like playing football
LIKE + to = choose to; think right; be in the habit of
   I like to visit the dentist every six months

LIKE, LOVE & HATE in the conditional are always followed by the infinitive:
I would like to buy a new car

G) PREFER

We use the -ing form after prefer to talk about general preferences:
   Do you like swimming? - Yes, but I prefer sailing
   The infinitive is used to talk about preferences on a particular occasion
   Can I give you a lift? - No thanks, I prefer to walk

NOTE: We prefer one activity to another:
   I prefer sailing to swimming

H) ALLOW, ADVISE, FORBID & PERMIT are followed by the -ing form when there is no personal object.

Sorry, we don’t allow smoking in here
   We don’t allow people to smoke.
GERUND OR INFINITIVE

1. They won’t allow us (park) the car here.
2. They don’t allow (smoke) in the cinema.
3. Would you children mind (keep) quiet for a while?
4. After (spend) a week in the office he decided he didn’t enjoy (work) abroad.
5. What about (have) a picnic? Not today, I prefer (go) to the beach.
6. When would you like (visit) your aunt?
7. We regret (inform) you that we are unable to offer you a discount.
8. I think Mary regrets (get) married to John.
9. Do you feel like (eat) out or would you rather (have) dinner here?
10. I don’t remember (see) Adam at the party, I hope she didn’t forget (invite) him.
11. I was interested (read) that the Town Council is going to build a new car park.

TRANSLATE:

1. No estoy acostumbrado a levantarme tan temprano
2. Deberías dejar de beber tanto
3. Me apetece quedarme en la cama
4. Pienso comprarme un coche nuevo
5. Además de beber vino, fuma puros
6. No me acuerdo haberte visto en la fiesta
7. El policía impidió que ya aparcara delante de la tienda
8. El director insistió en que yo asistiera a la reunión
9. Mi trabajo implica pasar horas delante del ordenador
10. Agradezco que hayas contestado tan pronto