

Past tense contrast

Choose the correct past tenses to complete the text.

I **started** / **had started** my own business in 2006. I **left** / **had left** university the year before and **worked** / **was working** for a large supermarket, but I **had felt** / **felt** very bored with my job. One day, while I **helped** / **was helping** a friend to design his website, I suddenly **realised** / **had realised** that I could earn some money from my website design skills. I **was doing** / **had done** a short web design course before I **went** / **was going** to university and **was really enjoying** / **had really enjoyed** it. My business **was growing** / **grew** very quickly and, in 2008, I **left** / **was leaving** my supermarket job and **started** / **was starting** to work full-time as a website designer.

The underlined verbs are in the wrong tense. Rewrite the sentences using the correct past tense.

While she was studying German at university, she was meeting her future husband.

Before they had left the house, they had closed all the windows.

We were walking to the bus stop and took the first bus into town.

Jon didn't buy any coffee earlier, so they drank tea.

They finished their meal and then had watched a film on TV.

It rained and the streets were dark and cold.

I got my first job before I was leaving school.

Stella was listening to some music when she had heard a noise outside.

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

Before I left home this morning, I had already _____.

I hadn't _____ before I got home yesterday.

I was _____ at half past nine last night.

I was _____ at eight o'clock this morning.

Last weekend, I _____.

Yesterday I _____.