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 <u>was meeting</u> her future husband.

_____

Before they <u>had left</u> the house, they had closed all the windows.

_____

We <u>were walking</u> to the bus stop and took the first but into town.

_____

Jon <u>didn't buy</u> any coffee earlier, so they drank tea.

_____

They finished their meal and then <u>had watched</u> a film on TV.

_____

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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 _____.

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