

1 Choose the correct past tenses to complete the text.

I ¹**started / had started** my own business in 2006. I ²**left / had left** university the year before and ³**worked / was working** for a large supermarket, but I ⁴**had felt / felt** very bored with my job. One day, while I ⁵**helped / was helping** a friend to design his website, I suddenly ⁶**realised / had realised** that I could earn some money from my website design skills. I ⁷**was doing / had done** a short web design course before I ⁸**went / was going** to university and ⁹**was really enjoying / had really enjoyed** it. My business ¹⁰**was growing / grew** very quickly and, in 2008, I ¹¹**left / was leaving** my supermarket job and ¹²**started / was starting** to work full-time as a website designer.

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

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

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

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

6 It rained and the streets were dark and cold.

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

7 I got my first job before I was leaving school.

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

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

3 a Complete the sentences with your own ideas. On a separate piece of paper, write one clue for each sentence.

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

2 I hadn't ... before I got home yesterday.

3 I was ... at half past nine last night.

4 I was ... at eight o'clock this morning.

5 Last weekend, I ...

6 Yesterday I ...

1 two cups

2 text

3 watch

4 sister

5 play

6 music

3 b **SPEAKING** Read your partner's clues and try to guess their sentences.

I think before you left home this morning, you had already drunk two cups of coffee.

No! Before I left home this morning, I had already broken two cups!

1B Past tense contrast

Aims: To review the past simple, past continuous and past perfect tenses.

Time: 10–15 minutes

Materials: One handout for each student

Exercise 1

- Give each student a handout and ask them to do exercise 1. Students work individually or in pairs. Remind them to look out for words like *while* and *before*, as these words can help to clarify a sequence of events.

KEY

1 started 2 had left 3 was working 4 felt
5 was helping 6 realised 7 had done 8 went
9 had really enjoyed 10 grew 11 left 12 started

Exercise 2

- Students correct the underlined mistakes in each sentence. You could go through each sentence first, asking students to identify and label the different tenses. This may help them to focus on why the tense is wrong and what the correct answer is.

KEY

- 1 While she was studying German at university, she met her future husband.
- 2 Before they left the house, they had closed all the windows.
- 3 We walked to the bus stop and took the first bus into town.
- 4 Jon hadn't bought any coffee earlier, so they drank tea.
- 5 They finished their meal and then watched a film on TV.
- 6 It was raining and the streets were dark and cold.
- 7 I got my first job before I had left school
- 8 Stella was listening to some music when she heard a noise outside.

Exercise 3

- For the first part of exercise 3, students work individually completing the sentences with their own ideas. Tell them that they don't have to write factual sentences about their own lives – they can make up interesting facts as long as they are logical and grammatically correct. They then write clues for their partner.
- Students then work in pairs, reading each other's clues and trying to guess the full sentences. You could invite one or two students to read out their clues to the class and then ask the class to try to guess the sentences.