Sample Essay – ‘My Hobby’

My favorite hobby is playing drums. I spend a lot of my free time playing drums. I started learning to play drums when I was 9 years old. I played in my school’s band. When I was 12, I got a private drum teacher and started to really enjoy playing.

My parents bought me a drum set and I started practicing every day after school. It was very loud, but my mother never complained. I improved a lot, and playing drums has been my favorite hobby ever since.

Now, I play drums in a band with my friend Dan, who plays guitar. We write songs, perform, and practice twice a week. It’s still as fun as it was when I first started playing!

Review: There are many past tense verbs above. Underline all of the past tense verbs that you can find.

Circle any words that you don’t know, and look them up in a dictionary.
UNIT 1

Sentence Pattern

**start/stop verb+ing**

- When you put a verb after *start*, *begin*, *stop*, *finish*, or *quit*, you must add “-ing”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>verb+ing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>start</td>
<td>started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>begin</td>
<td>began</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>finish</td>
<td>finished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quit</td>
<td>quit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:
I started studying English in 3rd grade.
I finished writing my homework at 11:00 last night.
My father quit smoking because it is unhealthy.
We began dating when we met last year.

*Write your own sentences, using the sentence pattern above:*

1. __________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________
3. __________________________________________________________
4. __________________________________________________________
5. __________________________________________________________
UNIT 1

Grammar

Past Tense

- When you talk about something that happened before now, you change the verb to past tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Past Tense Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>watch</td>
<td>watched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>play</td>
<td>played</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help</td>
<td>helped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>start</td>
<td>started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>finish</td>
<td>finished</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Past Tense Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>go</td>
<td>went</td>
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<tr>
<td>eat</td>
<td>ate</td>
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<tr>
<td>see</td>
<td>saw</td>
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<tr>
<td>have</td>
<td>had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sit</td>
<td>sat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:
We played basketball for two hours yesterday.
(“Yesterday” is before now.)
Jane had a birthday party last month.
(“Last month” is before now.)
My mother went to Japan three days ago.
(“Three days ago” is before now.)

Write your own past tense sentences:

1. __________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________
3. __________________________________________________________
4. __________________________________________________________
5. __________________________________________________________
My hobby is collecting stamps. I started collect stamps when I was five years old. My grandfather sent me a letter from Canada, and I really liked the stamp. I began collect more and more stamps, and soon I have more than 100! Last week, I read a book about collecting stamps, and I see a picture of a beautiful stamp that was worth over $100! This hobby is very interesting, so I don’t think I will ever quit collect stamps.
UNIT 1

Prepare to Write!

Write an essay about one of your hobbies. Look at the sample essay “My Hobby – Playing Drums” if you need help.

Answer these questions in your essay:

✓ What is your hobby?
✓ When did you start doing this hobby?
✓ Why do you like doing this hobby?
✓ How did you learn this hobby?
✓ When do you usually do this hobby?
✓ How often do you do this hobby? (every day, one a week, twice a month, on weekends, etc.)

Use this sentence pattern in your essay:

start/stop verb+ing

⇒ I started playing basketball when I was 5 years old.
⇒ I started reading novels when I was very young.

*Remember to use the past tense when you talk about things that happened in the past!
Essay – My Hobby

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Draw a picture: