

## ENGLISH GRAMMAR (ADVANCED)

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# WHILE vs MEANWHILE vs IN THE MEANTIME

**WHILE** (formal whilst) ⚡ during the time that, or at the same time as.

- I will go to the shops while you fix the computer.
- While I was in Italy, I went to see Alessandro.
- I thought I heard him come in while we were having dinner.

**WHILE connects two actions in one sentence.**

STRUCTURE : **WHILE** + 1<sup>ST</sup> ACTION + COMMA + 2<sup>ND</sup> ACTION + FULL STOP.

1<sup>ST</sup> ACTION + **WHILE** + 2<sup>ND</sup> ACTION

## MEANWHILE:

- 1) **while something else is happening** : (WHILE THAT WAS HAPPENING)
  - I was playing football at 10 in the morning. Meanwhile, my father was working.
  - I went to the shops. Meanwhile, my brother was trying to fix the computer.
  - We'll buy you some shorts at the weekend, but meanwhile you'll just have to wear your long trousers.
- 2) **until something expected happens** : . (UNTIL THAT HAPPENS)
  - Carl's starting college in September. Meanwhile, he's travelling around Europe.
  - They've arranged to have another meeting in two weeks, and meanwhile the problem is getting worse and worse!

**MEANWHILE connects two actions in two sentences.**

STRUCTURE : 1<sup>ST</sup> ACTION + FULL STOP + **MEANWHILE** + COMMA + 2<sup>ND</sup> ACTION.

1<sup>ST</sup> ACTION + SEMI COLON + **MEANWHILE** + COMMA + 2<sup>ND</sup> ACTION.

1<sup>ST</sup> ACTION + COMMA + BUT/AND + **MEANWHILE** + 2<sup>ND</sup> ACTION.

MISTAKE : ~~Meanwhile my brother was trying to fix the computer, I went to the shops.~~ WRONG

## IN THE MEANTIME:

- 1) **Until something expected happens.** (UNTIL THAT HAPPENS)
  - Your teacher will be here soon. In the meantime, can you get on with some reading, please?
  - The school will have to be rebuilt. In the meantime, teachers are using portable classrooms.
  - The gas supply will be restored, but in the meantime, we are preparing cold meals.
  - Your computer won't arrive till Thursday. In the meantime, you can use Jude's.
- 2) **While something else is happening:** (WHILE THAT WAS HAPPENING)
  - She spent four years studying for her law degree. In the meantime, she continued to work at the bank.
  - I didn't see her for another five years, and in the meantime she had got married and had a couple of kids.

STRUCTURE : 1<sup>ST</sup> ACTION + FULL STOP + **IN THE MEANTIME** + COMMA + 2<sup>ND</sup> ACTION.

1<sup>ST</sup> ACTION + SEMI COLON + **IN THE MEANTIME** + COMMA + 2<sup>ND</sup> ACTION.

1<sup>ST</sup> ACTION + COMMA + BUT/AND + **IN THE MEANTIME** + 2<sup>ND</sup> ACTION.