

WHILE, MEANWHILE, IN THE MEANTIME

WHILE *connects two actions in one sentence.*

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

1ST ACTION + WHILE + 2ND ACTION

- I will go to the shops **while** you fix the computer.
- I thought I heard him come in **while** we were having dinner.

WHILE + 1ST ACTION + **COMMA** + 2ND ACTION

- **While** I was in Italy, I went to see Alessandro.

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

1) while something else is happening : (WHILE THAT WAS HAPPENING)

- He's cleaning the house; **meanwhile**, his wife is away at work.

2) until something expected happens : . (UNTIL THAT HAPPENS)

- Carl's starting college in September. **Meanwhile**, he's travelling around Europe.

1ST ACTION + **FULL STOP** + MEANWHILE + **COMMA** + 2ND ACTION.

- I went to the shops. **Meanwhile**, my brother was trying to fix the computer.

1 ST ACTION + **SEMI COLON** + MEANWHILE + **COMMA** + 2ND ACTION.

- He's cleaning the house; **meanwhile**, his wife is away at work.

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

- They've arranged to have another meeting in two weeks, **and meanwhile** the problem is getting worse and worse!

IN THE MEANTIME *connects two actions in two sentences or two clauses.*

1) Until something expected happens. (UNTIL THAT HAPPENS)

- The gas supply will be restored, **but in the meantime**, we are preparing cold meals.

2) While something else is happening: (WHILE THAT WAS HAPPENING)

- I didn't see her for another five years, **and in the meantime** she had got married and had a couple of kids.

1 ST ACTION + **FULL STOP** + IN THE MEANTIME + **COMMA** + 2ND ACTION.

- Your computer won't arrive till Thursday. **In the meantime**, you can use mine..

1 ST ACTION + **SEMI COLON** + IN THE MEANTIME + **COMMA** + 2ND ACTION.

- The next programme starts in five minutes; **in the meantime**, here's some music.

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

- Please call a taxi, **and in the meantime** I'll pack some food.

AT THE END OF A SENTENCE

- We will do all the work that needs to be completed, **and you can relax in the meantime**