

meanwhile vs. while

Both of these words are used when two things or two actions are happening at the same time. The difference is really in how we construct the sentence.

1. meanwhile (adverb)

The word “meanwhile” connects 2 sentences. The 2 actions that are taking place are split into 2 separate sentences. And it is also **“meanwhile”** at the beginning of the second sentence.

For example:

I drink my coffee at 9am every morning. Meanwhile, you are in the room getting dressed for work.

At school I study very hard and do all my homework. Meanwhile, the other students play around and don't concentrate.

2. while (conjunction)

When we use “while” in a sentence, there is only one sentence. There are 2 actions, but only one sentence.

When we use while, we have two choices. We can put it in the middle of the sentence or we can put it at the beginning of the sentence.

For example:

I will make dinner while you fix the bathroom door.

OR

While you fix the bathroom door, I will make dinner.

Everyday, I drink my coffee while you get ready for work.