

While and Meanwhile

They both really mean the same thing, but they are used in slightly different ways with some differences in how you use them.

Meanwhile:

This word is an adverb and it is used to connect two sentences. It is always at the beginning of the second sentence and is connected to the second action. A comma is used after meanwhile:

"I went to the cinema. Meanwhile, Rosy stayed at home."

With 'meanwhile' you always need a subject after it.

While:

This word is a conjunction and it similarly connects two actions, but the word 'while' is either at the beginning or the middle of the sentence. The only difference in position is that if you use while at the beginning of the sentence, you need a comma after the first part of the sentence:

"I will do my homework while you watch TV."

"While you watch TV, I will do my homework."

While is often used with an 'ing' form of the verb:

"I eat breakfast everyday while reading the newspaper."

Unlike meanwhile, it is sometimes not necessary to use a subject after 'while' as in this example. Your subject 'I' is in the first part of the sentence:

"I hit a post while driving down the street."