

Comma Splice

One problem is the comma splice, it occurs when two sentences are punctuated as if they were one.

Everything up to the comma could stand on its own, as could everything which follows it. You have two complete sentences here, but they are joined – spliced – with a comma. That’s not a comma’s function.

Solutions

1. *Separate* the two sentences. Replace the comma with a period.

- *One problem is the comma splice. It occurs when two sentences are punctuated as if they were one.*

2. *Join* the two sentences appropriately.

Option A: Use a semi-colon. A semi-colon joins two sentences but does not explain what the connection is.

- *One problem is the comma splice; it occurs when two sentences are punctuated as if they were one.*

Option B: Add an appropriate co-ordinate conjunction (and, or, but) after the comma. Co-ordinate conjunctions spell out the connection between the two sentences, and state that the two parts are of equal weight.

- *One problem is the comma splice, and it occurs when two sentences are punctuated as if they were one.*

Option C: Subordinate one sentence to the other. Subordination embeds one part into the other, showing relationship. There are various ways to combine the sentences.

- *One problem, the comma splice, occurs when two sentence are punctuated as if they were one.*
- *The comma splice is a problem which occurs when two sentences are punctuated as if they were one.*
- *One sentence problem is the comma splice, which occurs when two sentences are punctuated as if they were one.*

All of these solutions are *correct*; not all of them are *right for the meaning*. Choose the best solution for what you’re trying to say.