

Comma Splices and Run-on Sentences

A run-on sentence is really two sentences merged together without proper punctuation.

Ted hates the human race he prefers to be alone.

A comma splice is two sentences merged together with only a comma separating them.

Ted hates the human race, he prefers to be alone.

There are a few ways to correct run-ons and comma splices.

1. Insert a period and create two shorter sentences.

Ted hates the human race. He prefers to be alone.

2. Insert a coordinating conjunction and comma to make a compound sentence.

Ted hates the human race, so he prefers to be alone.

3. Use a subordinating conjunction to make a complex sentence.

Because Ted hates the human race, he prefers to be alone.

He prefers to be alone because Ted hates the human race.

4. Separate the two independent clauses with a semi colon.

Ted hates the human race; he prefers to be alone.

5. Use a semi-colon, an adverbial conjunction, and a semi-colon to form a correct sentence.

Ted hates the human race; therefore, he prefers to be alone.