

THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

at **Sam Houston**
STATE UNIVERSITY

Run-On Sentences

Run-on sentences are independent clauses that have not been joined correctly. There are two main types: the comma splice and the fused sentence.

The **comma splice** has two main forms. The first is a run-on sentence joined by a comma alone, and the second is a run-on sentence joined by a comma and a word that is not a coordinating conjunction (the coordinating conjunctions are: and, but, or, nor, for so, yet).

Comma Splice Examples

Gestures are a means of communication for **everyone**, **they** are essential for the hearing-impaired.

Gestures are a means of communication for **everyone**, however, **they** are essential for the hearing-impaired.

Fused Sentence Example

Gestures are a means of communication for everyone they are essential for the hearing-impaired.

Independent Clause

Independent Clause

Revision/How to Resolve these Problems

To revise a run-on sentence, you have four choices:

- Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction.
Gestures are a means of communication for **everyone**, but **they** are essential for the hearing-impaired.
- Use a semicolon. A semicolon can also be accompanied by a transitional phrase.
Gestures are a means of communication for **everyone**; **they** are essential for the hearing-impaired.

Gestures are a means of communication for **everyone**; however, **they** are essential for the hearing-impaired.
- Make the clauses into separate sentences.
Gestures are a means of communication for **everyone**. **They** are essential for the hearing-impaired.
- Restructure the sentence so that one independent clause becomes a dependent clause.
Although gestures are a means of communication for everyone, they are essential for the hearing-impaired.

Select information taken from
Lunsford, Ronald F. and Bill Bridges. *The Longwood Guide to Writing*

Sentence Decision Flow Chart

