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.

**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.
Sentence Decision Flow Chart

Does the sentence contain two independent clauses?

- Yes
- No

Are the clauses joined with a comma and a coordinating conjunction?

- Yes
- No

Are the clauses joined with a semicolon?

- Yes
- No

REVISE.

It is a comma splice or a fused sentence.

No revision needed!