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).

**A Fused Sentence**

_Gestures are a means of communication for everyone, they are essential for the hearing-impaired._

Independent Clause Independent Clause

**Comma Splices**

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.

**Revision**

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

1) Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

    _Gestures are a means of communication for everyone, but they are essential for the hearing-impaired._

2) Use a semicolon. If using a semicolon, it can 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._

3) Make the clauses into separate sentences.

    _Gestures are a means of communication for everyone._
    _They are essential for the hearing-impaired._

4) Restructure the sentence.

    _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!