

Punctuation - 4

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).

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

