How to Identify Run-on Sentences and Comma Splices

QUESTIONS		REVISION STRATEGIES

1. Does the sentence have two or more independent clauses? — **NO** → It is not a run-on or a comma splice.

YES ↓

2. Are the clauses joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*and, or, nor, but, for, so,* or *yet*)? — **YES** → The sentence is not a run-on or a comma splice.

NO ↓

3. Are the clauses joined by a semicolon (;)? — **YES** → The sentence is not a run-on or a comma splice.

NO ↓

4. Are the clauses connected with only a comma? — **YES** → The sentence is a comma splice. Revise.

NO ↓

5. Does the sentence lack both a comma and a coordinating conjunction? — **YES** → It is a run-on sentence. Revise.