PROOFREADING FOR RUN-TOGETHER SENTENCES

Read your whole essay or paragraph out loud. Pace your reading so that you are not racing or, on the other hand, speaking more slowly than you usually do. Listen carefully as you read, though, so that you can hear each sentence. If you come to the end of a sentence and see a comma, read the words that come after the comma very carefully-out loud. Is the group of words following the comma also a complete sentence? If so, you need to change something. We use commas for many purposes, but one is "illegal"-a comma between two complete sentences when you have not also used a "legal" joining word. (Look up the "legal" joining methods on p. 19.)