

Comma Splices, Fragments, and Run-ons

Comma Splices:

***A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses (complete sentences) are joined with a comma. To correct a comma splice, delete the comma and replace with a period.**

NO: Complete Sentence , Complete Sentence

YES: Complete Sentence . Complete Sentence

Comma Splice: Transformers may be used to step up or step down AC voltages or currents, they may also be used to provide electrical isolation.

Corrected: Transformers may be used to step up or step down AC voltages or currents. They may also be used to provide electrical isolation.

Fragments:

***A fragment is an *incomplete thought* and cannot stand on its own as a complete sentence. Although fragments look like complete sentences (beginning with a capital letter, ending with a period), fragments are not complete sentences because they lack either a subject, a verb, or both.**

Complete sentence: Alice designed a filter circuit. (*Alice* is the subject; *designed* is the verb.)

Fragment: A filter circuit. (**Who** did **what** with a filter circuit?)

Fragment: The fundamental concept underlying the Internet is packet switching. *Which involves breaking messages into uniformly-sized packets before transmission.*

Complete sentence: The fundamental concept underlying the Internet is packet switching, which involves breaking messages into uniformly-sized packets before transmission. **OR** The fundamental concept underlying the Internet is packet switching. This concept involves breaking messages into uniformly-sized packets before transmission.

Run-ons:

***A run-on or fused sentence occurs when two complete sentences are joined without proper punctuation. To correct a run-on, locate the two independent clauses, and separate them with a period or a semicolon. You may also correct a run-on by inserting a comma followed by *and*, *but*, or another *coordinating conjunction*.**

Run-on: Purely common-mode input signals are applied to the differential amplifier for this case, both sides of the amplifier are completely symmetrical.

Corrected: Purely common-mode input signals are applied to the differential amplifier. For this case, both sides of the amplifier are completely symmetrical.