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.