

Key: Recognizing Common Errors in Grammar

The following exercise is intended to make you sensitive to the most common grammar errors made by engineers and scientists in their writing. Explanations of these errors can be found at the following site:

<http://writing.engr.psu.edu/exercises/>

Each of the word groups below has one of the following grammatical errors: run-on (RO), fragment (frag), misplaced modifier (MM), or faulty parallelism (#). Identify and correct the error.

- 1) Climatologists have long argued that global temperatures are rising, however, skeptics counter that urban sprawl has created the appearance of warming where none has truly happened. **RO**

Possible Correction: Climatologists have long argued that global temperatures are **rising**. **However**, skeptics counter that urban sprawl has created the appearance of warming where none has truly happened.

- 2) Animals that come in contact with oil can develop rashes, sores, and may leave the area. **#**

Possible Correction: Animals that come in contact with oil can develop **rashes and sores**, **and** may leave the area.

- 3) An oval shape is necessary in the die cavity, otherwise, the flow of metal would be restricted. **RO**

Possible Correction: An oval shape is necessary in the die **cavity**. **Otherwise**, the flow of metal would be restricted.

- 4) Several systems can detect plastic explosives. For example, thermal neutron activation systems, nitrogen sniffer systems, and enhanced x-ray systems. **FRAG**

Possible Correction. Several systems can detect plastic explosives. **Examples include** thermal neutron activation systems, nitrogen sniffer systems, and enhanced x-ray systems.

- 5) The initial wiring of the LED was not correct, therefore, our display did not work as it should have. **RO**

Possible Correction: The initial wiring of the LED was not **correct**. **Therefore**, our display did not work as it should have.

- 6) Quickly replacing the jumper, the circuit was retested and verified to be working properly. **MM**

Possible Correction: Quickly replacing the jumper, **we retested** the circuit and verified **it** to be working properly.

- 7) Printed circuit board relays are limited to small coil voltages, contact ratings, and lack multi-pole configurations. **#**

Possible Correction: Printed circuit board relays are limited to small coil **voltages and contact** ratings, and lack multi-pole configurations.