

**Patent Drafting for Beginners**  
**Prof. Feroz Ali**  
**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**

**Lecture – 32**  
**Forms and Punctuation of Claims**

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Show the Elements

- Separate the parts of the claim
  - Using punctuation
  - Commas, semicolon, colon
  - Break



Form and punctuation; by now, you would have seen that claims because they are written in the English language and they have to be in the form of a complete sentence, it follows the same rules of punctuations as a normal sentence. But because of the limitation by convention of having to write a claim in a single sentence, it is sometime required to use punctuation in a more emphatic way than you would normally use punctuation in your normal sentences. Now since it is written in a single sentence, there is a need to separate the different parts of the claim. So, that a person who sees it is able to easily understand the invention.

Now, this is largely done by punctuation, separating the different parts of the claim is done by punctuation, we use commas, semicolon and colon, we also use a break, a sentence is broken to start off as a part of a same sentence. So, you also do that through breaks, now let us just show you how comma semicolon colon and break can be used to create different parts or to distinguish the different parts of a same claim.

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## Claim for a Car

A car comprising:

- (a) a chassis;
- (b) an engine mounted on the chassis;
- (c) a drivetrain powered by the engine; and
- (d) wheels connected to the drivetrain.



Now, let us take the claim for a car. A car which is the preamble comprising which is the transition, transition is followed by a punctuation mark a colon. A chassis followed by a punctuation mark a semicolon; b an engine mounted on the chassis again followed by a punctuation mark a semicolon, a drivetrain powered by the engine followed by a semicolon and notice there is no punctuation after and d wheels connected to the drivetrain, it ends with the period.

Now, if you look at this a car is in red, which we understand as the preamble comprising in blue which we understand to be the transition term and the remaining is the body. So, the body tells us how the parts are and how they interact with each other. The engine is connected to the chassis it is mounted, the drive train is powered by the engine. So, there is a connection there and the wheels are connected to the drive train again it shows how the various elements cooperate with each other.

Now let us look take a closer look at the punctuation. Now the use of the colon follows the transition, it may be there you could also do it without a transition, just the break can convey the idea that this is a separate a separate part of the claim. Now the semicolon appears in three places does the role of defining or distinguishing each element. So, each element ends with a semicolon and you have a full stop which completes a sentence. Now notice this after the drive train powered by the engine there is an and now the and creates after the and you make a break, and that is that that will denote a separate element.