

Division 6 - Lincoln Laboratory  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: ONE ONE OR THE OTHER  
To: Group 62 and 63 Staff and Secretaries  
From: R. P. Mayer and W. N. Papian  
Date: May 28, 1954

Discussion

When one writes a memo using binary numbers, such as one would use to describe one states or zero states in a binary device, he should not use one without at least one special symbol (e.g. ONE, or "one", or "1") otherwise the one is hard to interpret because one does not know whether one means one or one, that is, one one or the other one.

Conclusion:

There exist two small words we call "one,"  
Which can cause great confusion, or fun.  
Use binary "ONE,"  
To distinguish from "one"  
So we'll know you mean "ONE" and not "one."

Signed *R.P. Mayer*  
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