

## CoCoA-5 - Support #1759

### Better error mesg for 1.2.3.4?

03 Aug 2023 16:04 - John Abbott

<b>Status:</b>	New	<b>Start date:</b>	03 Aug 2023
<b>Priority:</b>	Low	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>		<b>% Done:</b>	0%
<b>Category:</b>	Parser/Interpreter	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	CoCoA-5.4.4	<b>Spent time:</b>	0.60 hour
<b>Description</b>			
I mistyped and obtained an error message which could be better:			
<pre>/**/ [1.2.3.4]; --&gt; ERROR: I was expecting an identifier but I've found the number "3.4" --&gt; [1.2.3.4]; --&gt;      ^^^</pre>			

### History

#### #1 - 03 Aug 2023 16:05 - John Abbott

Maybe try some other similar wrong inputs? 1.2. or 1.2.3 or even 1.2.3.4.5

#### #2 - 05 Aug 2023 11:10 - John Abbott

Here is the current state:

```
/**/ 1.2.  
[[waiting for semicolon]] /**/ ;  
--> ERROR: I was expecting an identifier but I've found the operator/symbol ";"  
--> ;  
--> ^  
/**/ 1.2.3  
--> ERROR: I was expecting an identifier but I've found the number "3"  
--> 1.2.3  
-->      ^  
/**/ 1.2.3.  
--> ERROR: I was expecting an identifier but I've found the number "3"  
--> 1.2.3.  
-->      ^  
/**/ 1.2.3.4  
--> ERROR: I was expecting an identifier but I've found the number "3.4"  
--> 1.2.3.4  
-->      ^^^  
/**/ 1.2.3.4.  
--> ERROR: I was expecting an identifier but I've found the number "3.4"  
--> 1.2.3.4.  
-->      ^^^  
/**/ 1.2.3.4.5  
--> ERROR: I was expecting an identifier but I've found the number "3.4"  
--> 1.2.3.4.5  
-->      ^^^
```

Also

```
/**/ 1.  
[[waiting for semicolon]] /**/ ;  
--> ERROR: I was expecting an identifier but I've found the operator/symbol ";"  
--> ;  
--> ^
```

### #3 - 18 Mar 2024 20:59 - John Abbott

- Target version changed from CoCoA-5.4.2 to CoCoA-5.4.4

### #4 - 19 Mar 2024 20:05 - John Abbott

The relevant source code is probably in Parser.C near line 1924 inside the function parseSelectors right after case TT\_DOT:

Is it really worth trying to handle this case? I do sometimes mistakenly type a dot instead of a comma, and it is not always so obvious that I have mistyped... A friendlier error message would be nice, but may be complicated to achieve. Maybe we should just document somewhere(??) that an unhelpful error message may arise when a comma is mistyped as a dot...? How about

```
a := 123;  
L := [a. 2]; // where I *thought* I had typed a comma
```

Again we get ERROR: I was expecting an identifier...