

Comma Usage Activity

Possible comma errors have been indicated in the passage below with numbers. Please use the sample chapter to decide if a comma is or is not required.

In the space below the sample paragraph, indicate "Yes" if a comma is required, "No" if no comma is needed, or "Optional" if the comma is a stylistic choice. Then write down the page number from the sample chapter where you found the information that helped you decide.

Punctuation Tasks for Testing Handbooks

Paragraph for Comma Usability Test

Gordon Parks^❶ an African-American was born in Fort Scott^❷ Kansas in 1912. Working in jobs, ranging from dining car waiter to semi-professional basketball player^❸ Parks got his big break in 1942 when he began taking photographs for the Farm Security Administration. The move that brought him into the national spotlight though,^❹ was his 1942 addition to the staff of *Life Magazine*.

Is comma required, and page number:

Yes/No/Optional

Yes/No/Optional

Yes/No/Optional

Yes/No/Optional

❶ _____

❷ _____

❸ _____

❹ _____
