



Punctuation and Professionalism: Starting Sentences with “And” or “But”

Patrick Barry

University of Michigan Law School
Clinical Assistant Professor of Law



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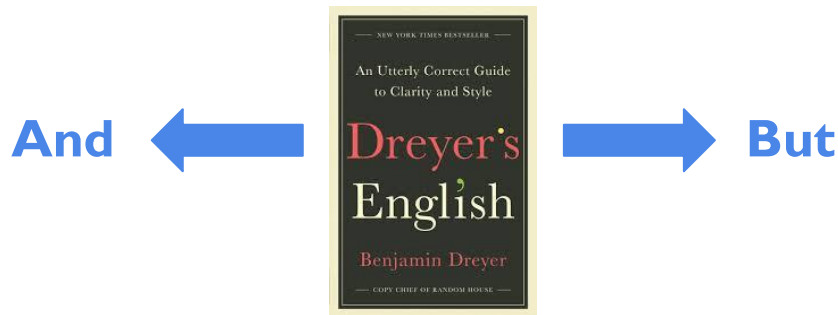
Coordinating Conjunctions

“Can I use one to start a sentence?”

Yes!

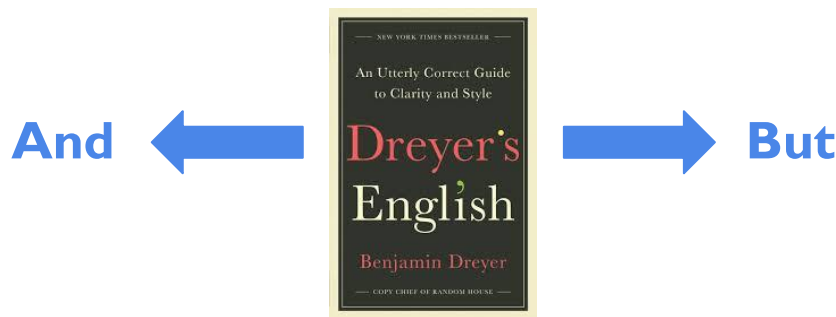
“The Great Nonrules of the English Language”

“Do begin a sentence with ‘And’ or ‘But,’ if it strikes your fancy to do so. Great writers do it all the time. As do even not necessarily great writers, like the person who has, so far in this book, done it a few times and intends to do it a lot more.”



“The Great Nonrules of the English Language”

“As a copy editor, I’m always on my guard for monotonous repetition, whether it’s of a pet word—all writers have pet words—or a pet sentence construction. Two sentences in a single paragraph beginning with the same introduction term, especially ‘But,’ are usually one sentence too many.”



Caveat

“Just because you can start a sentence with a conjunction doesn’t mean you should.”

Writing

“Consistently making good decisions”

Beginning

Before

Quality Writing

After

End

Good Sentences

“To write good sentences, you need to read good sentences.”