Can we begin sentences with and and but?

From Chris’s autobiography:

(1) “This was nearly ideal. The research was serious and precise, and the philosophy of language was a hot topic. But here as elsewhere in philosophy, one finds no strong common goal and no movement forward.”

Some variations:

The period to a comma

(2) This was nearly ideal. The research was serious and precise, and the philosophy of language was a hot topic, but here as elsewhere in philosophy, one finds no strong common goal and no movement forward.

Use a synonym that is not stigmatized when sentence-initial

(3) This was nearly ideal. The research was serious and precise, and the philosophy of language was a hot topic. However, here as elsewhere in philosophy, one finds no strong common goal and no movement forward.

Fowler on this topic:

(4) “That it is a solecism to begin a sentence with and is a faintly lingering superstition. The OED gives examples ranging from the 10th to the 19th c.; the Bible is full of them.”

(Fowler, H. W. 1965. A Dictionary of Modern Usage. 2nd ed. Revised and edited by Sir Ernest Gowers. New York: Oxford University Press. Entry for and, §5 (p. 29); see also his entry for but, §6 (p. 69).)
Can we end sentences with prepositions?

Sometimes adhering to this rule seems to led to something that no one would accept as a sentence of English:

(5) a. Ellen made light of the problem
    b. Which problem did Ellen make light of?
    c. *Of which problem did Ellen make light?

Fowler again:

(6) “It was once a cherished superstition that prepositions must be kept true to their name and placed before the word they govern in spite of the incurable English instinct for putting them late [...]”


Can we split infinitives?

A split infinitive involves placing an adverb or some other phrase between the infinitival to and the infinitival form of the verb. So to go is an infinitival verb phrase in *To go to the park would be lovely*.

Strunk and White:

(7) “The split infinitive is another trick of rhetoric in which the ear must be quicker than the handbook. Some infinitives seem to improve on being split, just as a stick of round stovewood does. “I cannot bring myself to really like the fellow.” The sentence is relaxed, the meaning clear, the violation harmless and scarcely perceptible. Put the other way, the sentence becomes stiff, needlessly formal. A matter of ear.”