



**Video 11 – Real Grammar: can I start a sentence with *however*?**

"Can I start a sentence with *however*?"

This question is often up for debate.

Consider these two sentences:

These findings, ***however***, may not be conclusive.

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Some traditionalists will tell you that a sentence should never *start* with words like 'however' or 'therefore'. This would mean that our second sentence here is wrong. But is it?

Well, when we look at our corpus, the evidence shows that using 'however' at the beginning of a sentence is perfectly natural and very common - in fact, it's almost twice as common to find "however" at the start of a sentence than in the middle of it.

(And in the case of 'therefore', either position is used with about the same frequency.)

So, both our sentences are fine, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise!

If you'd like to know more about this topic or other real grammar questions, have a look at the Macmillan Dictionary Blog.