

The subject does not really perform an action, nor does the verb describe a mere state of being. If we broaden our definition to say that a verb tells us something about some person or thing, it becomes difficult to explain the difference between verbs and adjectives. These definitions may cover the recognized situations acceptably, but any definition that covers all cases becomes so vague as to be useless for making discriminations. The traditional definitions of parts of speech are misleading as they look for semantic definitions. The Linguistic View Given this confusion over the concept of parts of speech, it's reasonable to ask if we can just abandon the concept completely. In fact, the problems with traditional parts of speech have prompted some linguists to abandon the term part of speech completely.