**Abstract**

*English Grammar as a Domain of Scientific Exploration*  
  
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It is amazingly common for English grammar to be regarded as a body of established and unchanging doctrine with which speakers are supposed to try to remain in compliance. Teachers, journalists, editors, and the general public all frequently seem to treat it in this way. Publishers are still putting out grammar books that present English grammar the way it was understood by about 1800, and 21st-century customers are buying them. I construe English grammar in a very different way, construing it as an active area of scientific inquiry. With many examples, I argue that there is still a great deal to be discovered, but that we have already discovered enough to know that the traditional grammar of 200 years ago has to be radically revised or entirely replaced, not because the language has changed but because our understanding of how to describe it has evolved.