Verb class B

These are English verbs like break, clear and open.

(1) Ray opened the door.
   a. ⇒ A door changed its state.
   b. ⇛ An opening changed its state.

What do each of the following diagnostics tell you about the kind of verbs these are? How would you formalize that?

Diagnostic 1

(2) a. Ray opened the door.
   b. *Ray opened (all last night). [meaning they opened something]
   c. The door opened.

(3) a. #Ray was opening all day.
   b. *Ray was clearing all day.
   c. #Ray was cooling all day.

Diagnostic 2

The first thing to note is that this diagnostic is constrained beyond just verb class:

(4) a. Ray opened their mom a beer. ⇒ change of possession
   b. *Ray opened their mom the door. ⇛ change of possession
   c. ?Ray broke their brother a stick.

Example~(4c) improves if Ray’s brother is building a little structure out of sticks, and Ray is helping by breaking sticks and giving them to him.

But setting aside the exact nature of the Theme/object, you can take the following as representative:

(5) a. Ray opened their buddy a beer.
   b. Ray cleared their friend a space at the bar.
   c. Lisa cooled/heated her baby some soup.

Diagnostic 3

(6) a. Ray cleared the table, clean.
   b. Ray broke the door, to pieces.

(7) a. #Ray opened, the door tiny.
   b. #Ray broke, the mirror jagged.

(7a) cannot mean that Ray used the door to form an opening that was tiny; (7b) cannot mean that they used the mirror to fashion a “break” that was jagged.

(8) a. *Ray opened the door tiny.
   b. *The bartender cleared the area open.
   c. *Lisa cooled the bottle pleasant.