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for our sentences. It is important to understand how each part of speech functions in a sentence because, combined with proper punctuation, the use and misuse of words create the meaning in your writing.

Nouns are people, places, or things. They often function as the subjects and objects in sentences.

Nouns are classified in several different ways:

Proper nouns: Jennifer Lawrence, California, Chipotle	Concrete nouns: desk, house, tree, computer
Common nouns: computer, classroom, essay	Abstract nouns: peace, happiness, loneliness
Collective nouns: family, team, jury, herd	

In the example sentence below, The Writer's Resource Lab is a noun acting as a subject (the noun performing the action), and individualized writing instruction is a noun acting as an object (the noun receiving the action).

x The University Writing Center regularly offers individualized writing instruction

A verb is an action performed or a state of being. Below, offers is the verb, the action being performed.

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An adverb is a word that modifies a verb or sometimes adjectives and other adverbs. Adverbs usually end in -ly. In the example sentence below, regularly is an adverb because it describes the verb "offers."

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Adjectives are words that modify (describe) nouns or pronouns. **Attributive adjectives** appear before the noun. **Predicative adjectives** appear in the predicate of a sentence and are not followed by nouns; instead, they are complements of the copula be function that links predicative adjectives to nouns using helping verbs.

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