

Re: English Grammar

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2007-12/msg00616.html>

- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 14 Dec 2007 10:19:20 -0800 (PST)
-

On Dec 14, 12:52 pm, "J. Sommers" <jsomm...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Fri, 14 Dec 2007 02:34:32 -0800, ad wrote:

Hello,
I have a question.

A.]
Consider this statement below:–
He played music on the Mp3 player in his car, which was newly purchased.

Now what connotation does this above sentence give , does it mean: 1.)
that the MP3 player is newly purchased Or
2.) that the car is newly purchased

This reminds me of the TV show "Special Victims Unit." I guess that what is special is the unit, but I can't resist thinking that they worded it this way facetiously. How do we know anyway that the adjective is supposed to qualify? In this case the context provides the clue (unless, like I said, you take it tongue-in-cheek) but a variation like, say, "Special holiday gifts" is not unambiguous.

The division that handles sex crimes in NYC is not in fact called the SVU! (And no, it's the victims that are special, not the unit.)

.