

Re: English Grammar

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2007-12/msg00661.html>

- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 14 Dec 2007 14:06:01 -0800 (PST)
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On Dec 14, 4:56 pm, "J. Sommers" <jsomm...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Fri, 14 Dec 2007 10:19:20 -0800, Peter T. Daniels wrote:

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

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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.)

Fancy that! Special, in what sense?—

Victims of sex crimes.