

Re: English Grammar

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2007-12/msg00665.html>

- *From:* "J. Sommers" <jsommers@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 14 Dec 2007 22:35:43 GMT
-

On Fri, 14 Dec 2007 14:06:01 -0800, Peter T. Daniels wrote:

On Dec 14, 4:56 pm, "J. Sommers" <jsomm...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

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

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

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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.)

Fancy that! Special, in what sense?–

Victims of sex crimes.

I see. Well, at least my linguistic instinct was right: "Special"
qualifies "victims", not "victims unit." It just sounds like a unit
devoted to victims who also happen to be celebrities, or something like
that.