

## English B1 · Relative clauses

Intermediate English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

## The description flips sides

English nouns wear their descriptions behind them, like a backpack. Chinese nouns wear them in front, like a face.

# The glue words

| Glue  | For              | Example                      |
|-------|------------------|------------------------------|
| who   | people           | the teacher who teaches us   |
| which | things           | the pen which is on the desk |
| that  | people or things | the film that we watched     |
| where | places           | the shop where I bought it   |
| whose | possession       | the boy whose dog is famous  |

## Your turn: pick the glue

### Your turn

The man \_\_\_\_ called me is my uncle.

- A. which
- B. who
- C. whose
- D. where

## Dropping the glue

### object position — droppable

The book (that) I bought is about pandas.

The teacher (who) we met was kind.

### subject position — never droppable

The girl who lives next door is my friend.

The girl lives next door is my friend —  
two verbs collide.

## Your turn: drop or keep

### Your turn

Which can drop its glue word?

- A. The girl who lives next door is my friend.
- B. The book that I bought is about pandas.
- C. The man who called is my uncle.
- D. Neither ever.

## No double duty

### The spare part

The book that I bought it is about pandas. — wrong.

The book that I bought is about pandas. — right.

## Your turn: the flip

Your turn

— in English?

- A. The lives-next-door girl is my friend.
- B. The girl who lives next door is my friend.
- C. The girl is my friend who lives next door lives.
- D. The who lives next door girl.

## Say it aloud

The teacher who teaches us English is patient.



The patience which she has is legendary.



The shop where I buy noodles is the  
shop whose owner knows my order.



The homework I finished yesterday is the  
homework that nobody can find today.

## Check yourself

- The girl who lives next door — a person, a subject: glue required.
- The book (that) I bought — object position: the glue may vanish.
- The shop where I bought it — a place takes where.
- The boy whose dog is famous — possession takes whose.