

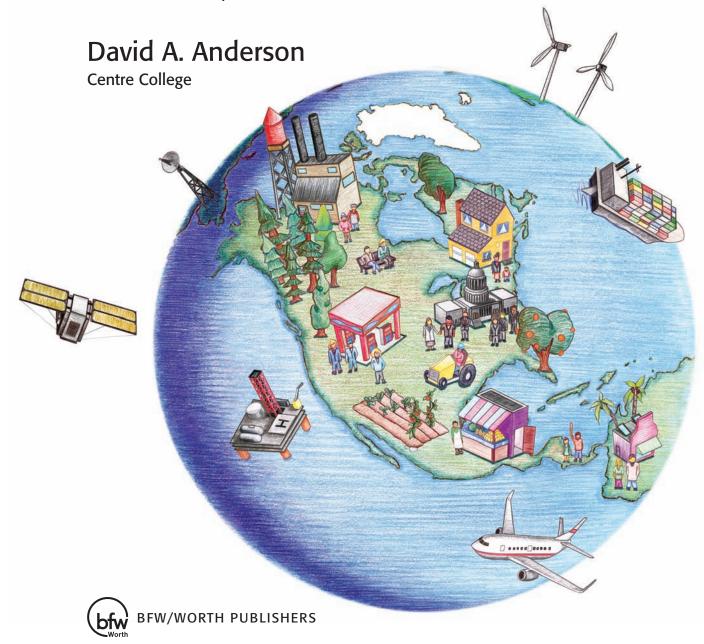
Alan B. Krueger

David A. Anderson

Explorations in Economics

Alan B. Krueger

Princeton University



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I dedicate this book to my parents, Rhoda and Norman Krueger, a schoolteacher and a public accountant, who taught me the value of education and public service.

Alan B. Krueger

To the students of today, whose economic literacy will serve the well-being of society tomorrow.

David A. Anderson

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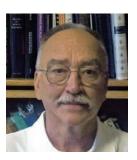


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Explorations in Economics benefited from the input of hundreds of reviewers and focus group participants. A complete list may be found at the back of the book beginning on page R-1.

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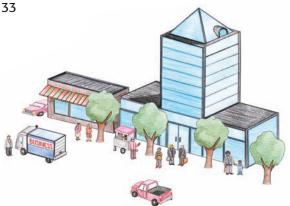
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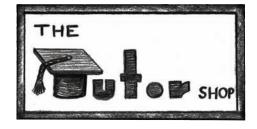
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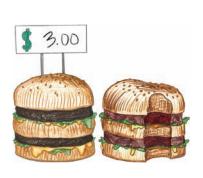
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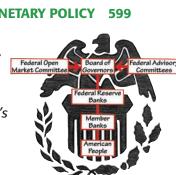
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ECONOMICS IN ACTION

Opportunity Cost Doesn't Always Mean Dollars Paid Out

People often confuse the opportunity cost of a decision with the direct dollar cost of that decision. You've ever missed a sports practice to take a make-up exam after school, you've experienced an opportunity cost that doesn't involve money at all. And even if you're not reliable to the make a make-up exam after school, you've experienced an opportunity cost dratending college includes more than the cost of fution. Ben Kaufman, the opportunity stypically going straight to well, people you would earn \$25,000 a year in the best available job right after high school. Then the opportunity cost of the tuttion cost plus the forgone income of \$25,000 for each of four years, or \$100,000. Although it sirt a draully paid out, that money you would have earned is part of the cost, too.

The first step in making good decisions is to understand that the true cost of any decisions is the opportunity cost, and not just the amount of money spent as a result of the decision. This applies to life's big decisions, such as whether to make up an exam.



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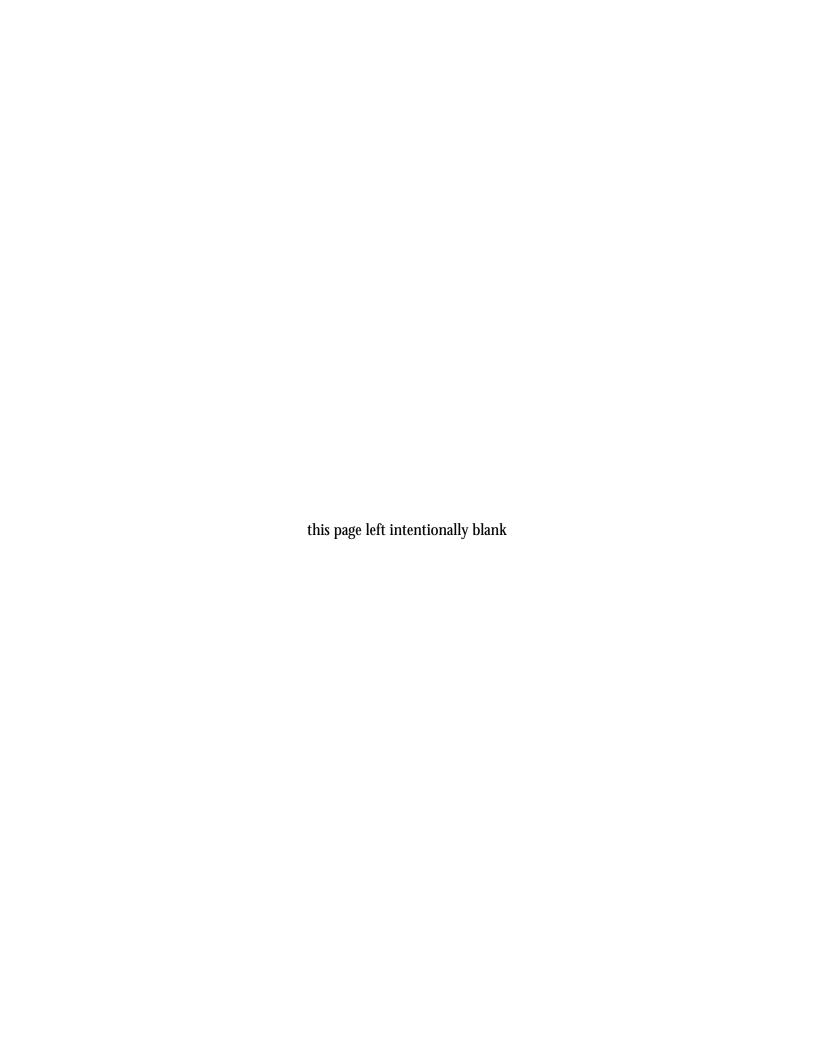


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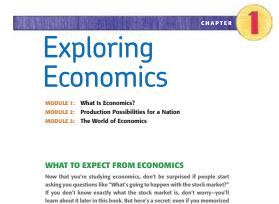
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How to Get the Most from This Program

Are you taking Economics because it was a required course or because you are interested in learning more about the economy? Either way, learning how to use the Explorations in Economics program effectively will help you achieve success in the class and in life.





asking you questions like "What's going to happen with the stock market?"
If you don't know exactly what the stock market is, don't worry—you'll
learn about it later in this book. But here's a secret: even if you memorized every bit of economic wisdom ever written, you still wouldn't be able to predict whether the stock pyou will learn in Chapter

to the stock market. B make sense of the daily money; and lead a hap How can economic understanding the wor naking tools for individ Economics can help you a successful husines as many have recen on to their jobs and ho weather, oil spills, and Your study of econ advertisers, the media

capture your hard-earr the stock market is u

Each chapter in the book is divided into two to four short modules.

REVIEW the MODULE OUTLINE and read the CHAPTER INTRODUCTION to get a feel for the ideas that will be introduced in the chapter.

For example, Chapter 1 lets you know what to expect and why an understanding of economics is important.

YOU On a typical weekend afternoon you probably have some tough decisions to make: will you watch a movie, hang out with friends, study for a big test, or do some odd in for neighbors? And with the money in your pocket, will you buy a donate to charity, download an album, or save for the future? tough decisions must be made at the national level. For example, new tax dollars go toward building better schools or strengtheni national defense? And should new workers produce donuts or homes? This chapter explains how the tools of economics ap tough calls like these. Even if you never make decisions about d or national defense, what you learn will help you make better choices

at school, at home, and with the money in your pocket on a weekend

afternoon.

READ the CHAPTER & YOU paragraph to see how the economic ideas in the chapter relate to your life.

What Is Economics?

3

MODULE 1

What Is Economics?

KEY IDEA: Economics deals with the choices we make, individually and as a society, under conditions of scarcity.

- To explain what economics is and why it is important.
- To define opportunity costs.
- To differentiate between wants and needs.
- To name society's key economic resources.



Economics Is about More Than Money

What you're doing right now-reading this book-is the result of an economic decision. That might surprise you. When people think of economics, they usually think about money, complicated graphs and charts, or factories producing cars. Or they think about words like *prices*, *unemployment*, and stocks. Economics is about all of these things, as you will see. But it is also about you, right now, making the choice to sit down and read this book. Because economics, at its core, is about choices; economics is the study of choice under conditions of scarcity.

Scarcity exists if we desire more of something than we can have. For example, individuals face a scarcity of time, businesses face a scarcity of the materials used to make what they sell, governments face a scarcity of tax dollars, and countries face a scarcity of energy sources. A good way to understand scarcity is to think about your own life.

Each module presents a handful of concepts central to the study of economics.

PREVIEW those concepts by reading the KEY IDEA and OBJECTIVES at the beginning of each module.

SCARCITY AND YOU

What is scarce for you? In other words, what do you desire that you can't have? If you would like a better cell phone, your own car, more clothes, and more time playing your favorite sport, these things are scarce for you. Behind these examples are two more basic forms of scarcity One is the scarcity of money available for you to spend-as you know, it doesn't exactly grow on trees. The other is time

Everything you do takes timeeating, doing chores, relaxing ily or friends, going to concerts ing events, reading, surfing the and your favorite: studying ed But there are only so many hou day. You don't have as much tir would like, so your time is scare

Each of us must deal with the scarcity of time and money. So when economists study choices, they usually focus on how people spend their time and money.



Scarcity Implies Tradeoffs

Whenever the scarcity of money or time forces you to make a choice, you face a tradeoff. You make a tradeoff when you give up one thing to get something else. For example, suppose you have \$25 to spend. You've considered

Economics is the study of choice under conditions of

Scarcity exists if we desire more of something than we

You make a **tradeoff** when you give up one thing to get something else.

STUDY the KEY TERMS as you read. Notice that the most important vocabulary words are printed in blue and defined in the margin.

These words are also defined in the English and Spanish Glossary/Glosario appendix at the end of the book.

Glossary/Glosario

This Glossary/Glosario includes all of the definitions found in the margins of the text.

Español

Cómo usar el glosario en español:

1. Busca el término en inglés que desees encontrar

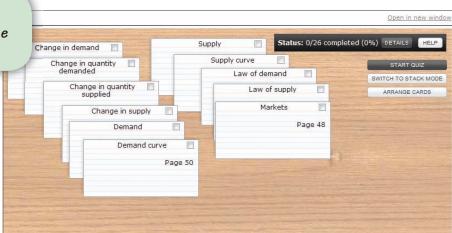
2. El término en español, junto con la definición, se encuentra en la columna de la derecha.

English Absolute advantage—the ability to produce more of a good than a trading partner using a given quantity of

ACH (automated clearing house) transfers-transfers between payers' and payees' accounts carried out without the use of checks on a secure electro-te-transfer network

Ventaja absoluta—la capacidad de producir más de un bien que otra persona, usando una cantidad dada de Transferencias de caja de compensación transferencias entre las cuentas de unines pagan y quienes reciben, efectuadas sin en ur segura para la

PRACTICE your mastery of the language of economics with the ONLINE FLASHCARDS.



Supply and Demand

the market price is lower than the equilibrium price, there is excess demand and the market price rises. In both cases, unless something like government price controls prevents the market price from fully adjusting, it will keep moving until it reaches the equilibrium price.



DID YOU GET IT? Why can we expect the price of a good to reach the equilibrium

STOP and think about the DID YOU GET IT? questions, which are sprinkled throughout the text and figures. If you can answer each question correctly and defend your point of view, you are on your way to mastering the content!

> are high and others are low. The relative scarcity of a good-meaning the size of



Even though no one really needs the latest electronic gadget, prices tend to be high when long lines of customers form for gadgets that are in short supply.

demand relative to supply-is the key to price determination. When there is a lo of demand for something that is in sh supply, like gold, Super Bowl tickets, a Picasso paintings, the relative scarc causes the good to be expensive ev though no one really "needs" it to s vive. The same idea explains why ma goods that are very important to u such as food and clothing-are availa at much lower prices. For these goo prices are low because supply is high re tive to demand.

Did you ever wonder why the latest Apple product is so expensive? LOOK at the PHOTOS and READ the CAPTIONS. which review and illustrate the explanations in the text. Sometimes pictures really are worth a thousand words!

ECONOMICS IN ACTION

The Diamond-Wer Paradox

WATCH OUT for CAUTION BOXES. which identify common mistakes made by economics students, like this one on page 64.



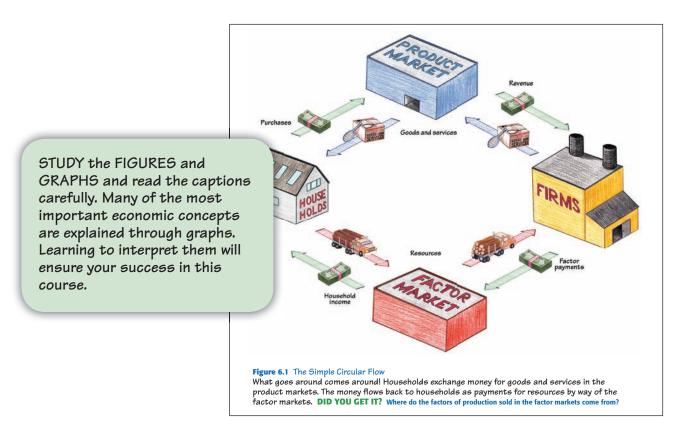
Markets Are More Than Supermarkets

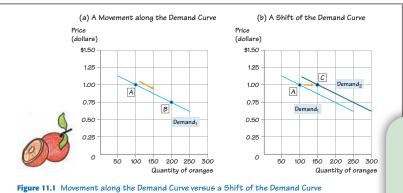
It's tempting to think of a market as a physical place, such as your local supermarket. But remember that *market* has a special meaning in economics; it refers to a group of buyers and sellers of a specific product or resource. The exchanges in a single market may take place in many different locations, including online.

YOUR TURN

Think about your favorite food (pizza? chocolate?) and your least favorite food (sushi? liverwurst?). Is your favorite food sold in many restaurants or stores? Is your favorite food easier to find than your least favorite food? If so, resources are being allocated well to serve you and others like you and you can commend your country for its answer to the first key economic question

> GET INVOLVED with the content. Spend time reflecting on YOUR TURN questions and activities, like this example from page 40. YOUR TURN questions help connect your personal experiences to the economics concept you just learned.

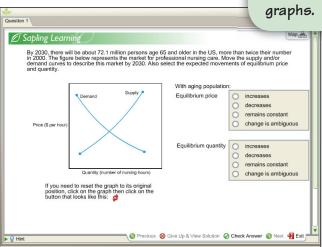


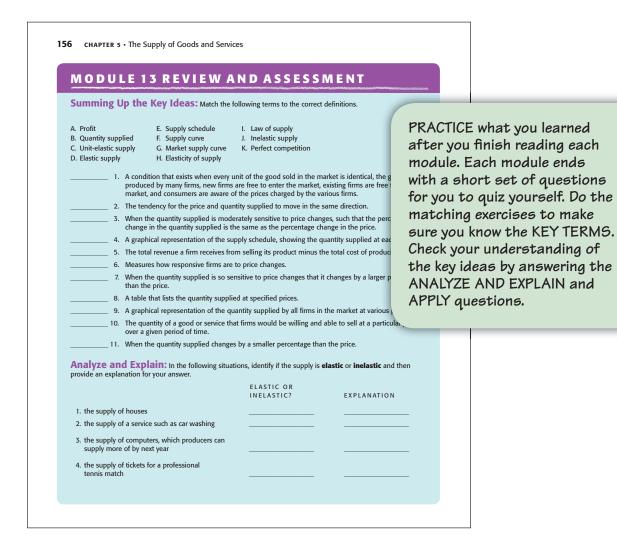


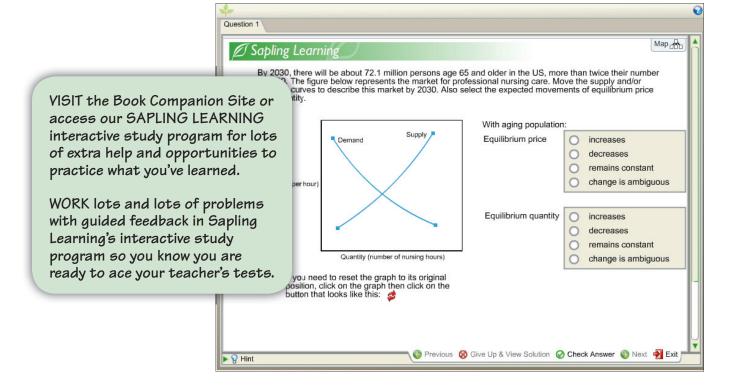
Panel (a) shows a movement along the demand curve. When the price of oranges changes from \$1 to \$0.75, consumers are willing to buy 100 more oranges. Panel (b) shows what happens if people want to purchase more oranges at every price; the entire demand curve shifts to the right.

VISIT the Book Companion Site to get help with graphing.

LEARN how to read and interpret graphs with with the interactive GraphExplore tool and PRACTICE drawing your own







CHAPTER 5 REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT

REVIEW

Points to Remember

MODULE 13: UNDERSTANDING SUPPLY

- Profit is the total revenue a firm receives from selling its product minus the total cost of producing it.
- The quantity supplied is the amount of a good that firms are willing to supply at a particular price over a given period of time.
- There is perfect competition in a market when there are many firms selling identical goods, firms are free to enter and exit the market, and consumers have full information about the price and availability of goods.
- According to the **law of supply**, an increase in the price of a good leads to an increase in the quantity supplied.

The **supply schedule** a good is a table in wantity of the

- When there is a movement along the supply curve, this is called a change in the quantity supplied.
- 12. **Inventory** consists of goods that are held in temporary storage.

MODULE 15: PRODUCTION, COST, AND THE PROFIT-MAXIMIZING OUTPUT LEVEL

- 13. The **short run** the quantity o
- 14. The **long run** quantities of a
- 15. The **marginal**by which tota

TEST YOURSELF after completing the modules in each chapter. REVIEW the POINTS TO REMEMBER for each module. This easy-to-follow outline will help fill in any gaps you may have in your notes.

ANSWER the SELF-ASSESSMENT Multiple-Choice and Constructed Response questions to make sure you understand all the material and will do well on tests.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

The following questions are the type your teacher might ask you on a quiz or a improve your performance on class tests.

Multiple-Choice Questions

PRICE (DOLLARS)	QUANTITY SUPPLIED
\$5.00	100
4.50	90
4.00	75
3.50	55
3.00	30
2.50	0

- 1. As the price falls from \$4.50 to \$4.00,
 - a. the quantity supplied decreases from 90 to 75.
 - b. the upplied increases from 75 to 90.

- 2. When a perfectly competitive firm shuts down in the short run, there is still the obligation to pay
 - a. all the variable costs, but not the fixed cost.
 - b. no costs at all.
 - c the variable costs
 - d. the fixed costs.
- 3. Which of the following correctly defines *profit*?
 - a. marginal revenue minus marginal cost
 - b. fixed cost minus variable cost
 - c. marginal revenue minus marginal product
 - d. total revenue minus total cost

Constructed Response Question

1. Complete the blank spaces in this table of costs and revenue for a typical firm:

NUMBER OF WORKERS	TOTAL PRODUCT	MARGINAL PRODUCT	FIXED COST (DOL- LARS)	VARIABLE COST (DOLLARS)	TOTAL COST (DOL- LARS)	MARGINAL COST (DOLLARS)	PRODUCT PRICE (DOLLARS)	TOTAL REVENUE (DOL- LARS)	PROFIT (DOL- LARS)
0	0				\$200		\$10		
1	20			\$60			10		
2	50			120			10		
3	70			180			10		
4	80			240			10		
5	85			300			10		
6	88			360			10		
7	90			420			10		
8	91			480			10		

- 2. Answer these questions using the data in the chart:
 - a. How much are the fixed costs for this firm?
 - b. In what type of market does this firm sell-in product? Expl
- d. At what point (if any) do diminishing returns set in? Explain.
- e. What is the profit-maximizing tout level for this firm? Explain.

SEE HOW CONCEPTS APPLY to the real world in the special boxed content that is sprinkled throughout the book

ECONOMICS IN ACTION

The Wages of Economics

Economists work in many places, including government agencies like the Central Intelligence

pany; and large d, and Bank of America. hics is also helpful for a ness. Because people ave skills that help them and markets, they are

ssociation of Colleges rveys new college each year, asking ing salaries. Different ajors earn different alaries. As the table conomics is among the aying specialties.

Median Starting Salary for Selected Majors, College Class of 2012

COLLEGE MAJOR	STARTING SALARY (DOLLARS)				
Engineering	\$58,581				
Computer science	56,383				
Economics	54,800				
Business administration	49,200				
Accounting	47,800				
Math and sciences	40,939				
Communications	40,022				
Political science	38,400				
Education	37.423				

SOURCE: National Association of Colleges and Employers, "Salary Survey: Starting Salaries for New College Graduates—April 2012 Executive Summan," Available online at www.naceweb.org/salary-survey-data/ ?referal=research&menuID=71&nodetype=4.

DID YOU GET IT?

Why are people with training in economics valued in the workplace?

CKPHOTO/THINK

ECONOMICS IN ACTION

Lowering the Price of TV Downloads

In early 2010, Apple wanted to lower the price it charged on iTunes for downloading TV shows from \$1.99 to \$0.99 per episode. But Apple first needed permission from the TV networks that supplied the shows. Apple's managers believed that lowering the price would cause so many more people to download shows that total spending on the shows—and the total revenue of the TV networks—would rise. If they were right, the TV networks would come out ahead, and so would Apple, which kept a portion of the sales revenue for itself.

The managers at the TV networks weren't so sure. They agreed that lowering the price would increase the number of downloads, but each download would bring in less money than before. The TV executives worried that the rise in quantity demanded might not make up for the fall in price and that their total revenue would decrease.

Who was right, the managers at Apple or those at the TV networks? In making their case, the Apple managers were essentially arguing that the demand for downloaded TV shows was elastic. If that were true, then the rise in the quantity demanded would more than make up for the lower price, causing an increase in total spending on downloads and the total revenue for the networks and for Apple.

The TV networks, by contrast, were concerned that the demand for downloaded TV shows might be inelastic. If they were right, then the quantity demanded would not rise by enough to make up for the price drop, and total revenue would fall.

In February 2010, the TV networks decided to dip their toes in the water. They gave Apple permission to charge \$0.99 for certain shows only, on an experimental basis. Their goal was to determine if demand was elastic or inelastic. Based on the results, they would decide whether to allow Apple to lower the price of all TV shows. Because the networks didn't announce the revenue for specific shows, no one knows for sure how the experiment turned out. But we can make a good guess about the results, because six months after the experiment began, the networks were still charging the higher \$1.99 price on almost all their shows. This suggests that the demand for TV downloads was inelastic and that the revenue from the experimental shows fell when the price fell.



The demand for TV downloads is inelastic. That is, a price change leads to a relatively small change in the quantity of downloads demanded.

ECONOMICS IN ACTION are found in every module and show you how the economic concepts you're studying apply to the world around you.

PEOPLE IN ECONOMICS

AN INTERVIEW WITH Jeff Fluhr of StubHub

Jeff Fluhr was a cofounder of StubHub, an Internet trading website for buying and selling tickets to sporting and entertainment events. He attended Morristown High School in Morristown, New Jersey. Although he didn't take an economics class in high school, economics has had a big impact on his life. In 2007, he sold StubHub to eBay for \$310 million and looked for other ventures to start.

When did you think of the idea for StubHub?

I was a first-year student getting my MBA in business school in 2000 when I started the company. Prior to this, I had the uncomfort experience of business of selling ticket people would prefer to pay a higher price rather than not go. And at higher prices, some people with tickets would prefer to sell them, because they have better things to do with the money. The higher price brings supply and demand back into balance. StubHub provides a market to create that balance.

Can you give an example?
For the Miley Cyrus concert
tour that began in October 2007,
tickets were first sold by Ticketmaster

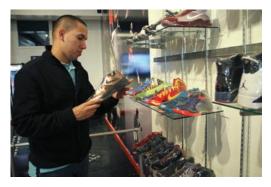
tickets were first sold by Ticketmaste at \$65-far below the equilibrium price. People were not permitted to buy more than four tickets each, but all the tickets sold out within minutes anyway. Many devoted fanseven if they were willing to pound they are unable to go

HOTO/THINKSTOCH

HEADLINE ECONOMICS

ΔP

"Sneakerheads" Hype Shoes for Credit and Profit



CHICAGO—They are lined up in the freezing rain, waiting patiently, stub-bornly. All night. All for a few pairs of shoes. Sean Rivera is among the 60 or so die-hards on this sidewalk along Chicago's Magnificent Mile shopping district. He looks a little crazy, smiling and suminfring through fower delasses.

and squinting through fogged glasses. It's all part of the life of "sneaker-heads," people who spend hundreds, even thousands of dollars on shoes, many of which carry the name of professional basketball stars, past and present. Chicagoans proudly point out that it started here with Michael Jordan and his Nike Air Jordan brand.

Jesus Estrella, a blogger who has become a self-made sneaker guru on YouTube, filmed one recent melee outside a mall in Orlando, Florida. "This shoe game officially has gone bananas," Estrella, who is known as "JStar" in the sneakerhead community, said as he watched police arrive and then begin sending people home.

and then begin sending people home. You don't always know which shoe is going to be "the shoe" of the ones that are released, Estrella says. But often, the shoes that go the quickest are those that are "reissued"—new versions of old standards, including Air Jordans and the Nike "Mag" sneakers worn by the character Marty McFly in the movie "Back to the Future." Consignment shops and online auctions have seen some of those shoes resell for thousands of dollars, while others sit on shelves longer and sell for less. A pair of original Air Jordans in good condition—bought by the most serious collectors—can sell today for \$4,000 to \$5,000. "Back to the Future" Mags, originally released to raise money for the Michael J. Fox

Foundation and Parkinson's research, go for that much, or more.

Often, sneakerheads are young men in their teens, 20s and 30s, many of whom now use the Internet to show off their "kicks." And companies like Nike are using that instant, word-of-mouth communication to their benefit, marketing experts say.

Limiting the supply—a tactic sometimes called "artificial scarcity"— also fuels the demand in an age when young people are

young people are products and lookir out. "It's harder a yourself different a body has access to Gary Rudman, prebased GTR Consu the habits of young

the habits of young For sneakerhe showing off your billity with your p an associate profes Yale University, rel social sign yourself with a huild status. So turn, limiting acc service to create a tion of coolness. leagues have, for Google and Spotii service—both of w made some service.

sumers by invitation,

"It's a bit of a puzzle—why would
the company early on try to slow
down the adoption of their product?"
she says. She found that the goal for
Google, with Google+, or Spotify
was to eventually draw in even more
members who wanted what the initial members had. Michael Carberry,
marketing professor at American University in Washington, says when you
factor in what it costs to design and
promote the limited edition shoes,
Nike may not make as much money
on them as it would if they were mass
produced, but the publicity they generate is priceles." The buzz is what works
for them and it just enhances the aura
of Nike," he says—and, in turn, generates more overall shoe sales to those

HEADLINE ECONOMICS boxes include articles featured in leading newspapers and economics magazines. These articles help link larger economic concepts to the world around you. Questions at the end of each article ask you to summarize and reflect on the article, like this one on page 220.

220

PEOPLE IN ECONOMICS

features introduce you to both influential economists, like Adam Smith, and new names in economics, like Jeff Fluhr and Alexa von Tobel. Some of the boxes feature extensive interviews while others offer a short biographical sketch.

PEOPLE IN ECONOMICS

Alexa von Tobel, LearnVest.com

When she graduated from Harvard College, Alexa von Tobel realized that although she was about to start a job on Wall Street, she did not feel comfortable managing her own money. In fact, she had never taken a personal finance class and wasn't sure how to deal with credit cards, insurance, and taxes. It occurred to her that many young women must be in a similar situation.

A few years later, in 2008, von Tobel took a leave of absence from Harvard Business School (to which she had since returned) to start LearnVest.com. Her goal was to explain personal finance in clear and understandable ways, and to provide tools that would

help women manage their financial situation. LearnVest offers features for tracking expenditure and budgeting, as well as tutorials on saving money and reducing debt. Users can also pay to receive advice from financial experts and enroll in online finance courses. Alexa von Tobel believes that financial planning is something to everyone should be able to do and

that everyone should be able to do and that taking control of your finances can help you achieve your dreams.



Skills Handbook

SECTION 1: Critical Thinking Skills

SECTION 2: Data Bank **SECTION 3: Atlas**

SECTION 4: Reading Graphs and Other Visual Resources

SECTION 5: Test-Taking Skill

CHECK OUT the SKILLS HANDBOOK at the end of the book for study tips and information that will help you be successful in this and other courses.

Practice Reading Primary and Secondary Sources

NEW YORK NEWS

October 29, 1929

STOCK MARKET CRASHES

New York-A massive decline in stock mar prices took place yesterday on the New Y Stock Exchange. More than 16 million sha changed hands as buyers rushed to sell stoo The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 12 I cent to close at just 198, down from a high 381 in September.

Stock prices have been falling for wee General Electric closed the day at 210 at peaking at 396 on September 3. RCA hit earlier this year but bottomed out at 26 y terday. "I'm ruined," investor Andrew Adams told reporters on Wall Street. "I only hope the market recovers soon."

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer the following questions about the prac-

Review Section 5 as you prepare

- tice selection to check your understanding. 1. Is the text a primary or secondary source? How can you tell?
- 2. What is the main idea of this text?
- 3. Restate the events of the text using your own words.

to take your first text.

If you need a little extra help with reading articles or interpreting graphs, consult Sections 1 and 4.

SECTION 4

Reading Graphs and Other Visual Resources

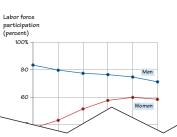
READING LINE GRAPHS

Line graphs are visual depictions of numerical values. The line on the graph shows the changing levels of a certain measurement or measurements. Usually, line graphs show change over time. More than one line may appear on a graph to allow the viewer to compare and contrast data.

Prepare to Read Line Graphs

Learning how to find information on a line graph is important to reading it correctly.





Test-Taking Skills SH-21

Test-Taking Skills

SECTION 5

EFFECTIVELY ANSWERING A

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTION Answering multiple-choice questions may seem challenging, but having a plan to address each question can make the test-taking process less intimidating.

Parts of a Multiple-Choice Question

All multiple-choice questions are set up in a similar way. Study this question to know what to expect.

The question stem asks the question you must

Which statement best describes the circular flow of income?

Read each answer choice carefully

Consider each answer choice one by one. Look for key words in the answer choices. Choices that include words such as always or never are often wrong.

Choose the best answer.

Determine which answer choice best fits the question. Make sure that the answer choice addresses the important terms and ideas you identified while reading the question.

General Practices

Make sure that you mark your answer choice clearly and neatly. If you change an answer, be sure to completely erase your first choice. Use any time at the end of the test to double-check your earlier answers.

EFFECTIVELY ANSWERING AN AY QUESTION

Personal Finance Handbook

SECTION 1: Take It to the Bank

SECTION 2: Get Interested in Money Math

SECTION 3: Learn to Earn

Telephone:

Social Security #:

I am an U.S. Citizen or otherwise authorized to work in the

Have you ever been convicted of a felony?

SECTION 4: Save and Invest Money

Give Yourself Some

PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE and learn how to manage your money by reading the PERSONAL FINANCE HANDBOOK.

Lots of activities, tips, links **ACTIVITY** to useful websites, and other valuable information will help Create a Resume you get on the road to financial independence. If you applied for a job today, what information could you list on your resume? Create a sai using the template below: YOUR NAME HERE 123 Any Street, City, State, Zip Code Phone: (000) 000-0000 | Email: yourname@youremail.com PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVE State the kind of work you want to do and why you are que Example: To sell technology products and services for a glo CREATE A BUDGET electronics and experience in customer service. Write your objective here: Take a look at Avery's financial situation and help him create a realistic spending plan that will lead to a better financial future. **Current Situation** RIENCE Avery is 24 years old and works in the mail room at a large company. His gross pay is \$2,500 per month, which gives him \$2,000 in net pay (after taxes and health insurance are taken out). He's been spending more than his take-home pay for a year and has accumulated over \$8,000 in credit card debt. Avery can hancing a lifestyle that he can't afford. Additionally, **ACTIVITY** thly Spending* What Is a Job Application? AMOUNT (DOLLARS) \$2,000 impressive resume and application will make you employers require you to complete a job or employment application. The application can be stand out from other applicants. \$700 Here's a tip to save time when you're applying customized by the employer, but it typically asks for personal information, references, and specifics about the job you're applying for. Submitting an for a job: Complete the sample application below and make a copy to bring with you to each job **Employment Application Information Sheet** POSITION APPLYING FOR: First Name: Middle Initial: Last Name: Current Address Street and Apt #: _ ____ State: ___ Zip Code: __ _City _

State:

_____ Yes ____No

E-mail:

Driver's License #:



Exploring Economics

MODULE 1: What Is Economics?

MODULE 2: Production Possibilities for a Nation

MODULE 3: The World of Economics

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ECONOMICS

Now that you're studying economics, don't be surprised if people start asking you questions like "What's going to happen with the stock market?" If you don't know exactly what the stock market is, don't worry—you'll learn about it later in this book. But here's a secret: even if you memorized every bit of economic wisdom ever written, you still wouldn't be able to predict whether the stock market will rise or fall tomorrow. In fact, as you will learn in Chapter 12, not even the experts know what will happen to the stock market. But economics has a lot to offer. It can help you make sense of the daily news; make good decisions about your time and money; and lead a happier, more satisfying life.

How can economics do all that? Economics provides a framework for understanding the world around you. It offers a powerful set of decision-making tools for individuals, businesses, organizations, and governments. Economics can help you figure out what to do with your earnings, develop a successful business, and plan for the future. When businesses stumble, as many have recently, economics shapes policies to help workers hold on to their jobs and homes. Throughout the world, in the wake of severe weather, oil spills, and other disasters, economic forecasts help people prepare for jolts to food and energy prices.

Your study of economics will also help you evaluate messages from advertisers, the media, and the troubling number of tricksters out to capture your hard-earned money. For example, you've already read that the stock market is unpredictable, so you know to be wary of claims



Economics connects the dots between natural disasters and high food prices.

that a particular stock investment is a "sure thing." Economic education can also boost your earnings: people with training in economics often earn high salaries because they have acquired skills valued in fields such as business, finance, and government.

Beyond that, you can expect familiarity with economics to help you become a better citizen. Before long, as a voter, a member of a household, and a participant in the life of your community, you will have opportunities to make important decisions. Economic literacy will help you navigate the swirling debates over budgets, the environment, health care, and taxes. Your exposure to economics might even inspire you to seek public office or change the world in some other way! In fact, many former presidents, members of Congress, business executives, rock stars, and philanthropists were economics majors.

An introduction to economics will not give you all the answers, but it will teach you the right kinds of questions to ask and give you

a logical way to approach decision making. Ultimately, the economic way of thinking will help you explore your possibilities for success and happiness. And that's why this book is titled *Explorations in Economics*! Let's get started . . .



BOTTOM LINE

Economics provides a logical way for people to think about decisions at every level—personal, family, organizational, business, and governmental—and what these decisions mean for society.

What Is Economics?

KEY IDEA: Economics deals with the choices we make, individually and as a society, under conditions of scarcity.

OBJECTIVES

- To explain what economics is and why it is important.
- To define opportunity costs.
- To differentiate between wants and needs.
- To name society's key economic resources.





Economics Is about More Than Money

What you're doing right now-reading this book-is the result of an economic decision. That might surprise you. When people think of economics, they usually think about money, complicated graphs and charts, or factories producing cars. Or they think about words like prices, unemployment, and stocks. Economics is about all of these things, as you will see. But it is also about you, right now, making the choice to sit down and read this book. Because economics, at its core, is about choices: economics is the study of choice under conditions of scarcity.

Scarcity exists if we desire more of something than we can have. For example, individuals face a scarcity of time, businesses face a scarcity of the materials used to make what they sell, governments face a scarcity of tax dollars, and countries face a scarcity of energy sources. A good way to understand scarcity is to think about your own life.

SCARCITY AND YOU

What is scarce for you? In other words, what do you desire that you can't have? If you would like a better cell phone, your own car, more clothes, and more time playing your favorite sport, these things are scarce for you. Behind these examples are two more basic forms of scarcity. One is the scarcity of money available for you to spend—as you know, it doesn't exactly grow on trees. The other is time. Everything you do takes time—sleeping, eating, doing chores, relaxing with family or friends, going to concerts or sporting events, reading, surfing the Internet, and your favorite: studying economics. But there are only so many hours in the day. You don't have as much time as you would like, so your time is scarce.

Each of us must deal with the scarcity of time and money. So when economists study choices, they usually focus on how people spend their time and money.



Scarcity Implies Tradeoffs

Whenever the scarcity of money or time forces you to make a choice, you face a tradeoff. You make a tradeoff when you give up one thing to get something else. For example, suppose you have \$25 to spend. You've considered buying a new cat, but you're fond of eating at the ice cream shop. If you spend your \$25 on a pet, you can't also spend it on banana splits. With an unlimited amount of money, you would not face a tradeoff—you could have a personal zoo and still eat ice cream every day. But because money is scarce, the tradeoff is

Economics is the study of choice under conditions of scarcity.

Scarcity exists if we desire more of something than we can have.

You make a **tradeoff** when you give up one thing to get something else.

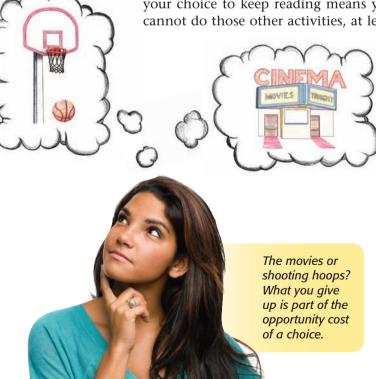


Using your time to study today will have big payoffs in the future.

necessary: you can't have your cat and eat banana splits, too.

Choices involving time have tradeoffs, too. For example, right now, you've made a choice to read this book. Even if a teacher or parent told you to read it, you still chose to do it rather than face the consequences of disappointing them. But you could be using your time in many other ways instead, like watching television, talking to friends, or reading a different book. Are you still here? If so, your choice to keep reading means you cannot do those other activities, at least

The **opportunity cost** of a choice is the value of the next-best alternative given up when that choice is made.



for now. That's the tradeoff involved in choosing to read this chapter.

Economists are interested in how people like you respond to tradeoffs. If you're wise, you consider the consequences of choices that arrive far into the future. For example, your choice to read this chapter is part of a larger decision to become more educated. Your education, in turn, will help determine the types of jobs you can obtain, your lifestyle, and your understanding of the world around you.

Next we'll look at more aspects of tradeoffs that wise decision makers never neglect.



DID YOU GET IT?

Name a good that is scarce for you. What tradeoff must you make to get it?

OPPORTUNITY COST

As you study economics, you'll learn valuable new ways to think about some familiar concepts. One of these concepts is *cost*. For example, if you go to a movie, what does it cost you? You might be tempted to say that the cost is what you pay for the ticket. If the price of the ticket is \$10, that's the cost of going to the movie.

Economics uses a more complete way of thinking about cost, called *opportunity cost*. The **opportunity cost** of a choice is the value of the next-best alternative given up when that choice is made. The opportunity cost captures the full tradeoff involved in a choice.

What is the opportunity cost of seeing a movie? The \$10 price of the ticket is part of the opportunity cost. If you pay for a movie ticket, you will have \$10 less to spend on other things. In addition to scarce money, the movie uses up some of your scarce time. If you do not go to the movie, you can spend both your money and your time on something else. The activity that you would give up for the movie is part of its opportunity cost.

Let's be more specific. What would you do with that time if you did not see the movie? Would you go to the mall with friends? Practice basketball? Study? If you didn't see the movie, you would choose the best of these other options. Suppose the best alternative would be to practice basketball. Then to see the movie you must give up practicing basketball during that time. You don't actually give up a trip to the mall or study time, because you would not have chosen those activities anyway. The basketball practice you do give up is one part of the opportunity cost of the movie. The other part is the \$10 you actually pay for the ticket.

Because opportunity cost is central to the economic way of thinking, you will see the concept in many chapters of this book. Always remember that the opportunity cost of a choice is whatever you must give up for the choice, not just the amount of money you spend. If a choice uses up time, the next-best alternative for using that time is part of the opportunity cost.



SCARCITY AND SOCIETY

In addition to choices for individuals, economics deals with choices for *society*. By **society**, we mean any collection of people who share a common bond, such as those living in the same city or country. Tradeoffs for society arise from scarcity, just as they do for individuals. To understand what scarcity means to society, we must first consider our desires and how we attempt to satisfy them.

Needs and Wants

Everyone in a society has **needs** that must be met for survival. These include food, water, and shelter. In addition, we have **wants**—things we desire that are not essential. A television is an example of a want. Your life might be less fun without a television, but you don't need it to survive. People often confuse needs and wants. Do you ever say that you "need" something—a haircut, a candy

bar, a new outfit—that you could live without? If so, an economist would say you really meant "want." You want a candy bar. You need enough food to stay alive.

It is vitally important to satisfy needs, but most of the tradeoffs in our society involve wants. That's because our needs are limited but our wants are unlimited. No matter how well we live, we can usually think of ways to live better. You can probably imagine having a more luxurious home, a snazzier bike, nicer clothes, and so on. *Economies* form as societies seek to satisfy their needs and wants. An **economy** is a system for coordinating the production and distribution of *goods* and *services*.

Goods and Services

Goods are physical items produced in an economy. Jeans, tennis rackets, popcorn, cars, and even houses are goods. **Services** are activities produced in an economy. A doctor's exam, a teacher's lesson, and a beauty treatment are all services. Services are used up at the same time they are produced, leaving no physical object behind.

When a doctor checks your throat or listens to your heart, you are receiving medical services. True, the doctor uses some goods during the examination, such as a tongue depressor and a stethoscope, but the checkup itself is a service. You cannot put the checkup in a bag and carry it home.

You use many services every day perhaps more than you think. The teacher in your economics course provides educational services. If you ride the bus to school, your driver provides transportation services. The janitor at your school provides cleaning services. Your phone and computer wouldn't be the same without phone and Internet service providers. And your favorite musicians provide entertainment services. You may also benefit from services provided by waiters, lifeguards, police officers, plumbers, government officials, and mechanics, among others. Most of the discussions of goods in this book apply An **economy** is a system for coordinating the production and distribution of goods and services.



Goods are physical items produced in an economy, such as jeans, tennis rackets, popcorn, cars, and homes.

Services are activities produced in an economy, such as education, entertainment, and health care.

A **society** is a collection of people who share a common bond, such as those living in a city, a country, or even the entire world.

Needs are minimal requirements of things such as food, water, and shelter that are necessary for survival.

Wants are things that are desired but are not essential to life.

Many teenagers have jobs that provide a service, such as baby-sitting.



Labor is the time and effort people contribute to the production process.

Capital is anything long lasting that is created by humans for use in production.

Physical capital is any long-lasting good that is used to make other goods or services.

Human capital refers to the skills and knowledge of workers.

Resources are the basic elements from which all goods and services are produced.

Entrepreneurship is the willingness of people to organize, operate, and assume the risks involved

with business ventures.

Land is anything drawn from nature for use in the production of goods or services.

equally to services, although sometimes the services category goes unmentioned for the sake of brevity.



DID YOU GET IT?

What is the difference between a need and a want?

SCARCE RESOURCES

To create any good or service, we must tap into our limited supply of *resources*. In economics, the term *resources* has a very specific meaning: **resources** are the basic elements from which all goods and services are produced.

Economists classify resources into four types: *land*, *labor*, *capital*, and *entre-preneurship*. Let's take a closer look at each.

1. Land describes anything drawn from nature for use in the production of goods or services. This includes the fields where strawberries are grown and the properties where Taco Bell restaurants are built. Land also includes the *natural resources* found on or under the ground, such as the forests used to make books, the water sprayed to irrigate cotton

fields, the oil refined to make gasoline, and the iron ore smelted to make steel.

2. Labor is the time and effort people contribute to the production process. Labor is provided whenever a farmer plants strawberries, a cook makes a burrito, a lumberjack cuts down a tree, or an engineer designs an irrigation system.



3. Capital is anything long lasting that is created by humans for use in the production of other things. There are two types of capital: Physical **capital** is any long-lasting *good* that is used to make other goods or services. Examples include tractors, pans, axes, irrigation systems, and oil refineries. Although oil itself is used to fuel everything from tractors to chain saws, it is not considered capital because it is used up in the production process. Human capital refers to the skills and knowledge of workers. If you've ever tried to drive a tractor, cook a fancy meal, or cut down a tree, you know these acts take more than time and effort. People with more skills and knowledge produce better results. If you have surgery, fly in an airplane, or eat out, the human capital of the people providing the service matters to you!

4. Entrepreneurship is the willingness of people to organize, operate, and assume the risks involved with business ventures. Entrepreneurs bring together the land, labor, and capital to produce goods and services that satisfy our needs and wants. Although most towns have the land, labor, and capital required for a Taco Bell restaurant, they will have no restaurant unless there is an entrepreneur willing to make it happen. Entrepreneur

Glen Bell opened the first Taco Bell in Downey, California, in 1962. Among other examples of entrepreneurs, Oprah Winfrey started the giant media company Harpo (Oprah spelled backward), Larry Page and Sergey Brin founded Google, and Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook.

The term **inputs** is used to describe the four types of resources, along with anything made with these resources that is in turn used to make something else, such as cement, steel, lumber, and plastic. Because all inputs are either resources or made with resources, it is safe to say that resources are the building blocks of every good and service you consume.

Society's Tradeoffs

We've seen that to address some of our needs and wants, we must use resources to produce goods and services. The more resources we have, the more goods and services we can produce. Unfortunately, we cannot wave Harry Potter's magic wand and make resources appear out of thin air. Instead, we are limited by the availability of resources. At any point in time, a country has a given number of people who can provide labor, a set amount of land, fixed amounts of physical and human capital, and only so many entrepreneurs. Countries, like people, face a scarcity of resources.



Writer, producer, and TV personality Tyra Banks is president and chief creative officer of Bankable Enterprises. After Banks became a successful entrepreneur with her show America's Next Top Model, she enrolled in a program at Harvard Business School. It's never too late to develop your human capital further!

Resource scarcity forces every society to make tradeoffs. If more resources are committed to the production of one good or service, fewer resources remain for making other things. To make more bicycles, the manufacturers would need more rubber for the wheels, metal for the frames, and space for the factories, and thus more land. They would also need more capital in the form of machinery to make bicycle frames and parts, labor for assembling and selling the bicycles, and entrepreneurs to organize the bicyclemaking businesses. The resources used in the bicycle industry would be drawn away from the production of other things such as computers and cars. So the decision to have more bicycles means we must give up something else.

Inputs include the four types of resourcesland, labor, capital, and entrepreneurship-along with anything made with these resources that is then used to make something else, such as cement, steel, lumber, and plastic.

Figure 1.1 Resource Scarcity

With limited resources and unlimited wants, society is forced to make tradeoffs. DID YOU GET IT? How does the scarcity of resources affect society's ability to satisfy its wants?







Limited ability to satisfy unlimited wants

Resource scarcity

ALLSTAR PICTURE LIBRARY / ALAMY



Limited ability to produce goods and services



Even if a country buys goods from other countries, it still faces scarcity and tradeoffs. Imagine

you buy a bicycle made in Canada. That bicycle was made using Canadian resources instead of U.S. resources. Did we escape a tradeoff by getting the bicycle in a different country? Not at all. Purchases across international borders go

both ways! The U.S. dollars used to purchase Canadian goods are likely to return home as Canadians purchase U.S. goods. The result is really a trade: Canada provides bicycles to the United States in exchange for goods made in the United States using U.S. resources. So to obtain the bicycle from Canada, we end up using some of our own resources to make goods for Canadians—resources that could otherwise have been used to produce something else. In general, a country cannot escape the scarcity of resources and the tradeoffs it creates. The next module takes a closer look at these tradeoffs.



MODULE 1 REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

Summin	g u	p tne	K	Ley Ideas: Match t	he following t	erms with th	e c	correct definition.
A. Economic	S		F.	Needs	K. Resources		P.	Human capital
B. Scarcity			G.	Wants	L. Land		Q.	Entrepreneurship
C. Tradeoff			Н.	Economy	M. Labor		R.	Inputs
D. Opportun	ity c	ost	l.	Goods	N. Capital			
E. Society			J.	Services	O. Physical ca	apital		
	1.	Exists if	w	e desire more of some	thing than we	have.		
	2.	Physical	it	ems produced in our e	conomy.			
	3.	The will	ing	gness of people to orga	nize, operate,	and assume	the	e risks involved with business ventures.
	4. The four types of resources, along with anything created from these resources that is then used make something else (e.g., cement, steel, lumber, and plastic).							
	5.	The stud	дy	of choice under condi	tions of scarcit	ty.		
	6.	The terr	n i	for what happens whe	n you give up	something t	o g	et something else.
	7.	The value of the next-best alternative.						
	8.	The skills and knowledge of workers.						
	9.	Anythin	g l	long lasting that is crea	ted by human	s for use in	pro	duction.
	10.	Any coll country.		ction of people who sh	are a commor	n bond, such	as	those living in the same city or
	11.	Minima	l a	mounts of food, water	and shelter n	ecessary for	su	rvival.
	12.	Activities produced in an economy.						
	13.	Things v	ve	desire that are not es	sential.			
	14.	A system for coordinating the production and distribution of goods and services.						
	15.	The time and effort people contribute to the production process.						

16. Anything drawn from nature for use in the production of goods and services.

17. Any long-lasting good that is used to ma	ke other goods or services.
18. The basic elements from which all goods	s are produced.
Analyze: After you finish this chapter, you might want each of the following items as land , labor , physical capit a scarce resource.	to take inventory of the scarce resources you own. Classify al, human capital, entrepreneurship, or not counted as
	CLASSIFICATION
1. the tools you own	
2. the area in your yard where you plant vegetables	
3. the lawn mower you purchased to cut the grass	
4. gasoline purchased to run the lawn mower	
5. the workers hired to build the planting beds in the garden	
6. the knowledge and skills acquired in your college degree program	
7. the money in your pocket	
8. the water and fertilizer used in your garden	
the organizational skills you possess and use in the operation of your business to sell the vegetables you grow	
10. the effort you exert in tending your garden	
Apply: List an opportunity cost for each of the following	g activities.
	OPPORTUNITY COST
1. completing this problem set	
2. watching television tonight	
3. going to bed early	
4. playing a high school sport	
5. having an after-school job	
6. going to school after high school	
7. going to work directly out of high school	