

IN THIS CHAPTER

- What is consumer surplus? How is it related to the demand curve?
- What is producer surplus? How is it related to the supply curve?
- Do markets produce a desirable allocation of resources? Or could the market outcome be improved upon?

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Welfare Economics

- Allocation of resources refers to:
 - How much of each good is produced
 - Which producers produce it
 - Which consumers consume it
- · Welfare economics
 - Studies how the allocation of resources affects economic well-being
- Conclusion: the equilibrium of supply and demand maximizes the total benefits received by all buyers and sellers combined.

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Consumer Surplus - 1

- Willingness to pay, WTP
 - Maximum amount the buyer will pay for that good
 - How much the buyer values the good
- Consumer surplus, CS = WTP P
 - Amount a buyer is willing to pay minus the amount the buyer actually pays
 - Benefits buyers receive from participating in a market.

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EXAMPLE 1A: Willingness to Pay

You work at the local store that sells refurbished iPads. The store is running a sale on the refurbished iPad mini 3. Each of your roommates wants to buy an iPad mini 3. Their willingness to pay is given in the table below.

Name WTP
Alexis \$250
Kelly 175
Quinn 300
Jamir 125

Q: If the sale price is \$200, who will buy an iPad, and what is the quantity demanded?

A: Alexis & Quinn will buy an iPad mini. Kelly & Jamir will not.

• Hence, $Q^d = 2$ when P = \$200

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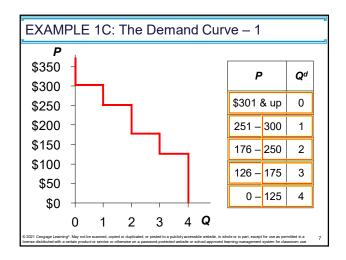
EXAMPLE 1B: WTP and the Demand Curve

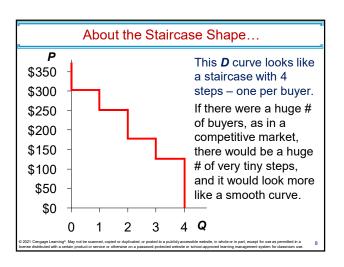
Derive the demand schedule:

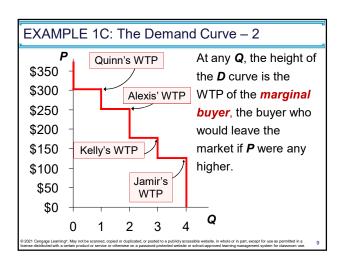
Name	WTP
Alexis	\$250
Kelly	175
Quinn	300
J amir	125

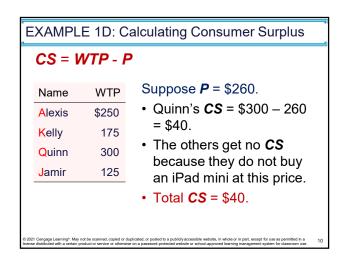
P (price of iPad)	who buys	Q ^d
\$301 & up	nobody	0
251 – 300	Quinn	1
176 – 250	Alexis, Quinn	2
126 – 175	Kelly, Alexis, Quinn	3
0 – 125	Jamir, Kelly, Alexis, Quinn	4

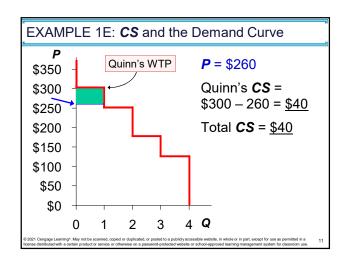
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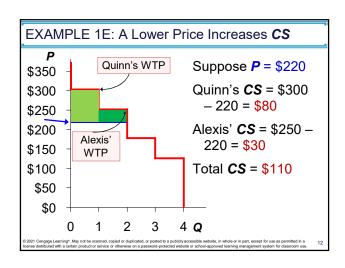








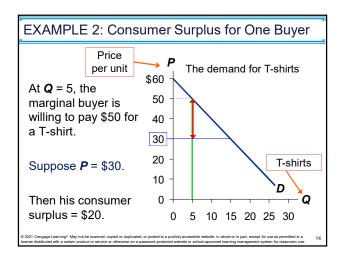


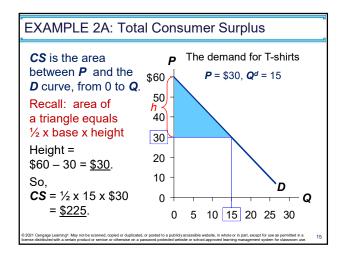


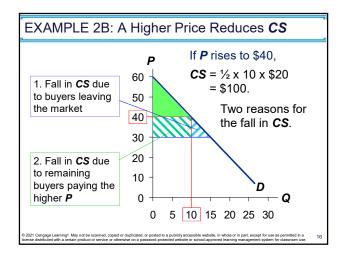
Consumer Surplus – 2

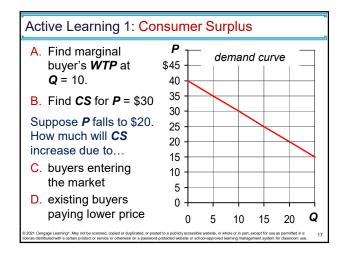
- Total consumer surplus
 - The area below the demand curve and above the price
 - The height of the demand curve = the value buyers place on the good (*WTP*)
 - Each buyer's **CS** = **WTP P**
 - The sum of the consumer surplus of all buyers in the market

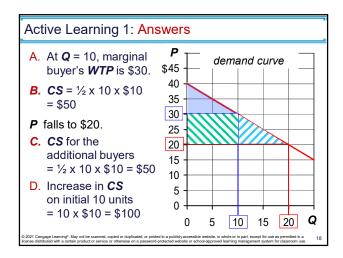
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Producer Surplus – 1

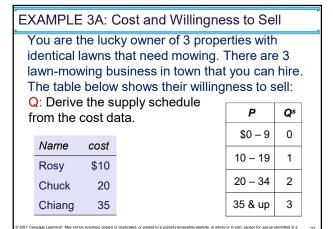
- Cost
 - Value of everything a seller must give up to produce a good
 - Including opportunity cost
- Willingness to sell, WTS
 - The lowest price accepted by a seller for one unit of a good or service
 - The cost is a measure of willingness to sell: produce and sell the good/service only if the price > cost

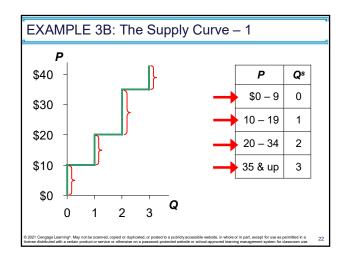
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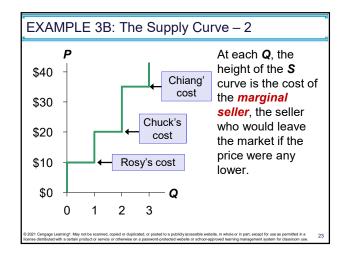
Producer Surplus – 2

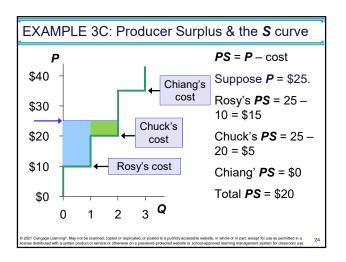
- Producer surplus, **PS** = **P** cost
 - Amount a seller is paid for a good minus the seller's cost of providing it
 - -Price received minus willingness to sell
 - Measures the benefit sellers receive from participating in a market

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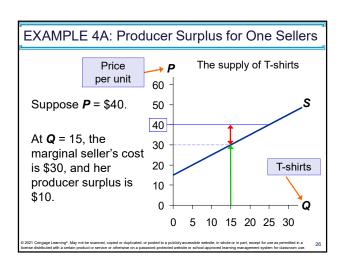


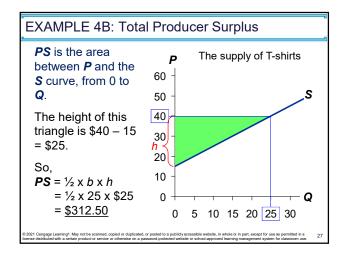


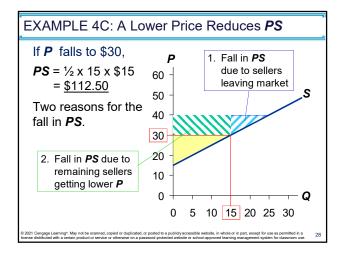


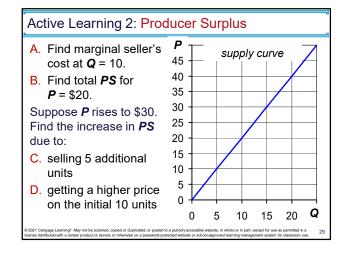


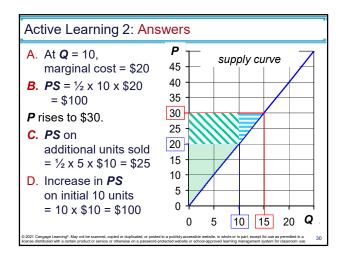
Producer Surplus – 3 Producer surplus, PS = P - cost The area below the price and above the supply curve The height of the supply curve measures sellers' costs Each seller's PS = P - cost Total area is the sum of the producer surplus of all sellers











The Benevolent Social Planner – 1

- The benevolent social planner
 - Hypothetical character: an all-knowing, all-powerful, well-intentioned dictator
 - Wants to maximize the economic wellbeing of everyone in society
 - Evaluate market outcomes
 - -Cares about efficiency and equality

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The Benevolent Social Planner – 2

- Allocation of resources desirable?
 - Decentralized (in a market economy)
 - Determined by interactions of many selfinterested buyers and sellers
 - Total surplus measure of society's wellbeing
 - To consider whether the market's allocation is efficient

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Market Efficiency – 1

- Total surplus = CS + PS
 - Consumer Surplus = Value to buyers Amount paid by buyers
 - Buyers' gains from participating in the market
 - -Producer Surplus = Amount received by sellers - Cost to sellers
 - Sellers' gains from participating in the market

Total surplus = Value to buyers – Cost to sellers

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Market Efficiency – 2

- Efficiency
 - The allocation of resources maximizes total surplus
 - Is the pie as big as possible?
- Equality
 - Distribute economic prosperity uniformly among the members of society
 - Every member of society gets an equal slice of the pie?

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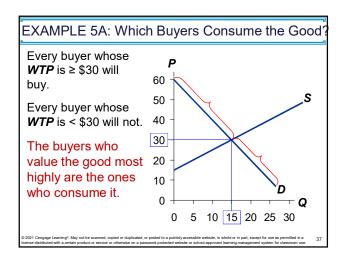
Market's Allocation of Resources

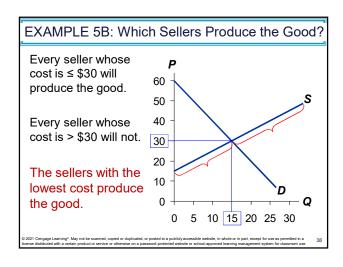
Free Market Outcomes:

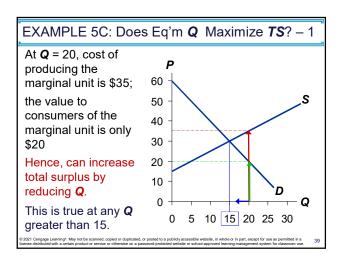
- 1. Allocate the supply of goods to the buyers who value them most, as measured by their WTP
- 2. Allocate the demand for goods to the sellers who can produce them at the lowest cost
- 3. Produce the quantity of goods that maximizes the sum of consumer and producer surplus
 - Raising or lowering the quantity of a good would not increase total surplus

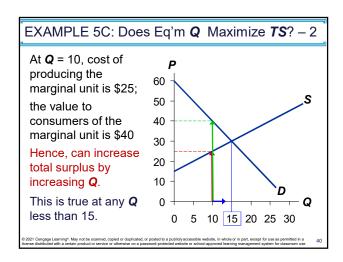
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EXAMPLE 5: Evaluating the Market Equilibrium Market equilibrium: P = \$3060 Q = 1550 Total surplus 40 = CS + PSCS 30 20 Is the market eauilibrium 10 efficient? 5 10 15 20 25 30









Adam Smith and the Invisible Hand Passage from The Wealth of Nations, 1776

"It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest. Every individual... neither intends to promote the public interest, nor knows how much he is promoting it.... He intends only his own gain, and he is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote



1723-1790

an end which was no part of his intention.... By pursuing his own interest he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it."

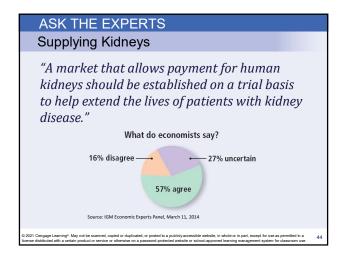
Market Efficiency & Market Failure - 1

- · Forces of supply and demand
 - -Allocate resources efficiently
- Assumptions about how markets work
 - 1. Markets are perfectly competitive
 - 2. Outcome in a market matters only to the buyers and sellers in that market
- When these assumptions do not hold
 - "Market equilibrium is efficient" may no longer be true

Market Efficiency & Market Failure – 2

- Market failures
 - Market power: a single buyer or seller (small group) control market prices
 - · Markets are inefficient
 - Externalities: decisions of buyers and sellers affect people who are not participants in the market at all
 - Inefficient equilibrium from the standpoint of society as a whole

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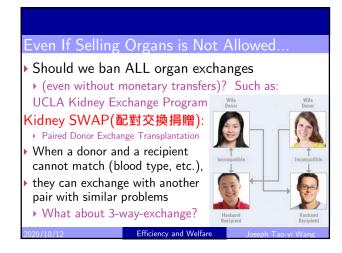
THINK-PAIR-SHARE

Some years ago, the front page of The Boston Globe ran the headline "How a Mother's Love Helped Save Two Lives." The mom couldn't donate a kidney to her son (not compatible). Hospital's solution: the mom donates one of her kidneys to a stranger, her son moves to the top of the kidney waiting list.

- A. What do you know about the market for kidneys?
- B. Is the current situation efficient? Is it fair?
- C. What would happen with the efficiency of the market if people were allowed to sell/buy kidneys?

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The Guardian posted a touching album of... • postings on streets around hospitals offering to sell organs. • The posts advertise blood type—A, B, O... • Kidneys for sale: Iran's trade in organs https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/ may/10/kidneys-for-sale-organ-donation-iran • Kidney trade in Iran • Wikipedia Entry en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kidney_trade_in_Iran









CHAPTER IN A NUTSHELL

- Consumer surplus: buyers' willingness to pay for a good minus the amount they actually pay
 - Measures the benefit buyers get from participating in a market
 - Area below the **D** curve and above **P**
- Producer surplus: amount sellers receive for their goods minus their costs of production
 - Measures the benefit sellers get from participating in a market
 - Area below **P** and above the **S** curve

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CHAPTER IN A NUTSHELL

- An allocation of resources that maximizes total surplus is said to be efficient
 - Policymakers are concerned with the efficiency, as well as the equality, of economic outcomes.
- Equilibrium of S and D maximizes total surplus
 - The invisible hand of the marketplace leads buyers and sellers to allocate resources efficiently.
- Markets do not allocate resources efficiently in the presence of market failures (market power or externalities)

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Chapter 7: Efficiency and Welfare

- ► Consumer Surplus + Producer Surplus = Total Surplus (maximized at Equilibrium)
- ▶ Efficiency vs. Equality
- ▶ Homework:
 - Mankiw, Ch.7, Problem 6, 7, 9-11
- Additional Questions:
- ▶ <u>True</u> or <u>False</u>. If consumers buy 1,000 heads of lettuce per week, and if the price of lettuce falls by \$1 per head, then the consumer surplus will increases by \$1,000.

20/10/12

Efficiency and Welfare

Joseph Tao-yi Wang

Chapter 7: Challenge Questions/ex-Midterm

- ▶ Old Midterm (retired):
- > 2008 (Multiple Choice Q6-Q7)
- ▶ 2010 Essav C
- ▶ 2013 (True/False Q8)
- ▶ 2017 Essay B3
- ▶ 2018 Essay A5

020/10/12

fficiency and Welfare

Joseph Tao-yi Wang