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PREFACE

When George Lucas was asked why he made *Star Wars*, he replied, 'it's the kind of movie I like to see, but no-one seemed to be making them. So I decided to make one.' We realised that no-one seemed to be writing the kind of textbook we wanted to use in our courses. So, after years of supplementing texts with fresh, lively, real-world examples from websites, newspapers, magazines and professional journals, we decided to write an economics text that delivers complete economics coverage with many real-world examples.

NEW TO THE FOURTH EDITION

The core ideas of economics remain unchanged: opportunity cost, demand and supply, comparative advantage, marginal analysis, efficiency in competitive markets, the role of the entrepreneur in markets, and the role of government. What does change is the context in which lecturers and instructors present these ideas in class and the policy debates of the time. In the past few years, to take just a few examples relevant to microeconomics, we have witnessed the runaway success of smartphones and tablet computers, seen the rapid growth of the sharing economy including companies such as Uber and Airbnb, experienced increased policy debate about how best to address climate change, and experienced the impact of the global economic contractions and recessions. This new edition helps students to understand these changing economic realities.

In this fourth edition we retain the focus of presenting economics in the context of real-world businesses and real-world policy debates that have proved effective for teaching and learning. We have made a number of important improvements, which include suggestions from lecturers currently using the text and from reviewers. We hope these changes will make the text an even more effective teaching tool. The fourth edition includes the following key changes:

- New material on the rapid growth in the use of robotics in the workplace, in Chapters 1 and 12.
- Analysis of the rise of the sharing economy through companies such as Uber and Airbnb, in Chapters 6, 8 and 14.
- Expanded coverage of behavioural economics in Chapter 6, with new material including the rule of thumb and anchoring.
- · Coverage of the Harper Report on competition in Chapter 9.
- Extended coverage of compensating differentials in Chapter 12.
- Updated material on the policy debate on climate change policy in Chapter 15.
- · Expanded treatment of global poverty in Chapter 16.
- Updated and new chapter-opening cases for many chapters.
- A number of new and substantially revised Making the Connection features, with others containing updated data and information, to help students tie economic concepts to current events and policy debates.
- All new An Inside Look news articles and analyses, to enable students to apply economic concepts to current
 events and policy debates.
- · Figures and tables have been updated, using the latest data available.
- A number of new and updated end-of-chapter questions to reflect updates to content.

THE FOUNDATION

CONTEXTUAL LEARNING AND MODERN ORGANISATION

We believe a course is a success if students can apply what they have learned in both personal and business settings and if they have developed the analytical skills to understand what they read in the media. That's why we explain economic concepts by using many real-world business examples and applications, from both Australia and other countries, in the chapter openers, graphs, *Making the Connection* features, *An Inside Look* features, and end-of-chapter problems. This approach helps students to become educated consumers, voters and citizens. In addition, we also have a modern organisation and place interesting policy topics early in the book to pique student interest.

We are convinced that students learn to apply economic principles best if they are taught in a familiar context. Whether they fill a graduate role in business or government, trade on the securities exchange, or open their own business, students must understand the economic forces behind their work. And though business and economics students will have many opportunities to see economic principles in action in various courses, students from other disciplines may not. We therefore use many diverse real-world business and policy examples to illustrate economic concepts.

The following points illustrate our approach:

- A strong set of introductory chapters. Our introductory chapters provide students with a solid foundation in the basics. We emphasise the key issues of scarcity, trade-offs, marginal analysis and economic efficiency. In Chapter 1 we introduce students to the economic way of thinking through the growing use by Australian businesses of offshoring to the Philippines, the rapid rise of robotics in the workplace, the debate on minimum wage laws, and the debate on immigration to Australia. Chapter 2 examines the trade-offs and marginal analysis that managers and economies have to face, presented in the context of Tesla deciding on the mix of vehicles to produce. Chapters 3 and 4 introduce demand and supply and how the market works, using the examples of demand and supply of tablet computers, the rising demand for fitness trackers, the price of petrol, and the increased tax on 'alcopops', to help contextualise the issues and concepts.
- Early coverage of policy issues. To pique interest and expose students to policy issues early in the course, we discuss the effect on jobs of Australia's growing use of offshoring and robotics in Chapter 1, the free market and the illegal downloading of movies and music from the Internet in Chapter 2, the market for housing in Australia in Chapter 3, government policy towards illegal drugs in Chapter 4, and whether Uber is involved in price gouging in Chapter 6. The remainder of the microeconomic chapters continue this approach by relating concepts to relevant business examples and current economic policy and events.
- Immediate relevance to students. This new edition of Microeconomics has been revised to provide students with the most up-to-date and relevant content they need to succeed in the field of economics. Once again, all chapters contain examples to demonstrate the practicality and relevance of economics to decision making that students may be currently involved with. Here are a few examples: Chapter 4 examines the pricing of alcoholic drinks; Chapter 6 looks at costs and profits of a successful web blogger; Chapter 9 analyses whether companies such as Netflix can provide competition with Foxtel in the subscription video-on-demand market; Chapter 11 looks at whether there is a 'best' strategy for bidding on eBay; Chapter 12 analyses the effect of robotics on the labour market; and Chapter 13 touches on the controversial subject of whether we should buy products made with child labour.
- Applications to contemporary issues. Our chapters are written to reveal the relevance and importance of economic analysis to current significant issues that affect individuals, business and society. Chapter 4 analyses whether higher taxes on 'alcopops' reduces alcohol consumption in young people. In Chapter 9 we look at the impact of Foxtel's dominance in sports in the pay TV market. Chapter 13 discusses whether businesses that send jobs offshore (including banks, airlines and telecommunication companies) reduce jobs in the local economy. Chapter 14 examines the role of government in society, covering issues such as 'Should drugs be legal?'. In Chapter 15 we look at the effectiveness of government policy in reducing air lead

- levels, and examine policies to address climate change. And Chapter 16 introduces students to the important policy issues of income redistribution, and domestic and international poverty.
- Complete coverage of monopolistic competition. We devote a full chapter to monopolistic competition
 in Chapter 10. Although some instructors cover monopolistic competition very briefly or dispense with it
 entirely, we think it is an overlooked tool for reinforcing the basic message of how markets work in a context
 that is much more familiar to students than are the agricultural examples that tend to dominate discussions
 of perfect competition. Covering monopolistic competition also allows for the early discussion of topics such
 as the sources of competition and brand management.
- Extensive, realistic game theory coverage. In Chapter 11 we use game theory to analyse competition between oligopolists. Game theory helps students to understand how companies with market power make strategic decisions in many competitive situations. We use familiar companies such as Qantas, Virgin Australia, Jetstar, Big W, Kmart, Coles, ALDI, eBay, Dell Technologies, Microsoft, Coca-Cola and Pepsi in our game theory applications. In contrast to many textbooks, we have placed the traditional models of oligopoly in an appendix. This enables students to focus on game theory while avoiding being overwhelmed by numerous models, and yet still allows for the option of studying the traditional approaches.
- Unique coverage of the economic reasons for government intervention. We have included a unique chapter that provides an overview of the role of government in a market economy. Some textbooks largely ignore this material, while others have pieces scattered throughout numerous chapters. In Chapter 14 we have organised this material to enable students to gain a concise yet complete picture of the role of government. Topics include market failure, public and private interest views of government policy, the legal system and the rule of law, and the economics of information. This chapter can be used as an introduction to the more in-depth analyses of externalities, public goods, taxation and income redistribution in the subsequent two chapters, or it can be used as a stand-alone chapter for an overview of these concepts and policy issues.
- Extensive and contemporary coverage of externalities and environmental policy. A large part of Chapter 15
 focuses on externalities and the associated environmental policy. We believe that in the current context of
 industrialisation and air pollution, greenhouse gases and climate change, it is important to dedicate the major
 part of a chapter to the economic analysis of these issues and the corresponding policies.
- Flexible chapter organisation. Because we realise that there is a variety of approaches to teaching principles of microeconomics, we have structured our chapters for maximum flexibility. For example, some instructors may wish to omit the appendices of Chapters 6 and 7 containing indifference curve and isoquant analysis, while others may wish to include this level of analysis. Chapter 13 is a self-contained chapter on international trade, leaving the option open to include or omit this material. Please refer to the flexibility chart on page xxvii to help you select the chapters and order best suited to your course needs.

SPECIAL FEATURES

A REAL-WORLD, HANDS-ON APPROACH TO LEARNING ECONOMICS

OPENING CASES AND AN INSIDE LOOK NEWS ARTICLES

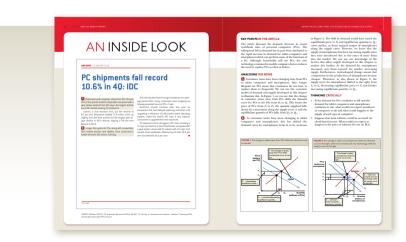
Each chapter-opening case provides a real-world context for learning, sparks students' interest in economics, and helps to unify the chapter. The opening case describes real situations facing actual companies. The company or economic issue is integrated into the narrative, graphs and pedagogical features in the chapter. For example, we look at companies such as Tesla, Uber, Apple, Sony, Rio Tinto, Coles, Woolworths, Foxtel, Netflix, Telstra, The Coffee Club and Expedia.



Here are a few examples:

- The tablet computer revolution and the effects on competition (Chapter 3).
- How Uber brought competition to the taxi industry (Chapter 8).
- Netflix challenging Foxtel in the subscription video-on-demand market (Chapter 9).
- Rio Tinto mining with robots (Chapter 12).

An Inside Look is a two-page feature that shows students how to apply the concepts of a chapter to the analysis of a news article. Articles are from sources such as ABC Online, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, The Australian Financial Review and The Australian. The An Inside Look feature presents analysis of the article, a graph(s), and critical thinking questions.



Here are some examples of the articles featured in *An Inside Look*:

- 'Robotics will hit finance jobs harder than offshoring', The Australian Financial Review (Chapter 1).
- 'Australian smokers to pay more than \$45 for a packet of cigarettes from 2020', The Guardian (Chapter 5).
- 'Can economies of scale rescue Tesla?', Oilprice.com (Chapter 7).
- 'Supermarket giant ALDI gears up for price war', The West Australian (Chapter 11).

ECONOMICS IN YOUR LIFE

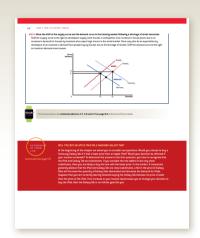
After the chapter-opening real-world case, we have added a personal dimension to the chapter opener with a feature titled *Economics in Your Life*, which asks students to consider how economics affects their own lives. This feature piques the interest of students and emphasises the connection between the material they are learning and their own experiences.

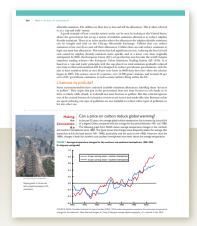


At the end of the chapter, we use the chapter concepts to answer the questions asked at the beginning of the chapter.

The following are examples of the topics we cover in the *Economics in Your Life* feature:

- Will you buy an Apple iPad or a Samsung Galaxy Tab? (Chapter 3).
- Why do people pay for Foxtel? (Chapter 9).
- How can you convince your boss to give you a pay rise? (Chapter 12).
- How much tax should you pay? (Chapter 16).





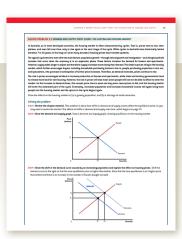
MAKING THE CONNECTION

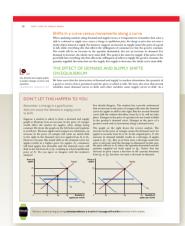
In each chapter, *Making the Connection* features present relevant, stimulating and provocative cases from various countries, primarily about business but sometimes related to other significant world economic events or policy issues. These features link the concepts and models covered in the chapter with a real-world application. Here are some examples of the *Making the Connection* features:

- The rise and rise of fitness trackers (Chapter 3).
- A blogger who understands the importance of ignoring sunk costs? (Chapter 6).
- Who owns the Wizard of Oz? (Chapter 14).
- Can a price on carbon reduce global warming? (Chapter 15).

SOLVED PROBLEMS

Many students have great difficulty handling applied economics problems. We help students to overcome this hurdle by including worked-out problems tied to select chapter learning objectives and the associated quantitative information. Our goals are to keep students focused on the main ideas of each chapter and to give students a model of how to solve an economic problem by breaking it down step by step. Additional exercises in the end-of-chapter material are tied to every *Solved Problem*.





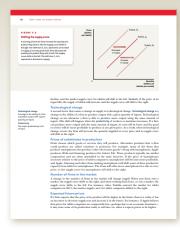
DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU

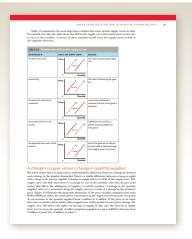
We know from many years of teaching which concepts students find most difficult. Each chapter contains a box feature called *Don't Let This Happen to You* which alerts students to the most common pitfalls in that chapter's material. We follow up with a related question in the end-of-chapter *Problems and Applications* section.

GRAPHS AND SUMMARY TABLES

Graphs are an indispensable part of the principles of an economics course but are a major stumbling block for many students. Every chapter includes end-of-chapter problems that require students to draw, read and interpret graphs. Interactive graphing exercises can be found on the book's supporting MyLab™ Economics website. We use four devices to help students read and interpret graphs:

- 1. Detailed captions
- 2. Boxed notes
- 3. Colour-coded curves
- Summary tables with graphs.

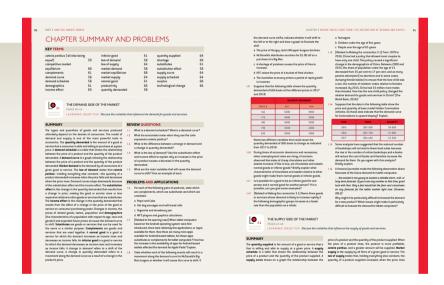




REVIEW QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS AND APPLICATIONS—GROUPED BY LEARNING OBJECTIVE TO IMPROVE ASSESSMENT

All the end-of-chapter material—Summary, Review Questions and Problems and Applications—is grouped under learning objectives. The goals of this organisation are to make it easier for instructors to assign problems based on learning objectives, both in the book and in MyLab Economics, and to help students efficiently review material that they find difficult. If students have difficulty with a particular learning objective, an instructor can easily identify which end-of-chapter questions and problems support that objective and assign them as homework or discuss them in class. Similar exercises to every exercise in a chapter's Problems and Applications section are available in MyLab Economics. Using MyLab Economics, students can complete these and many other exercises online, get tutorial help and receive instant feedback and assistance on exercises they answer incorrectly. Also, student learning will be enhanced by having the summary material and problems grouped together by learning objective, which will allow students to focus on the parts of the chapter they found most challenging. Each major section of the chapter, paired with a learning objective, has at least two review questions and three problems.

As in the previous editions, we include one or more end-of-chapter problems that test students' understanding of the content presented in the *Solved Problem* and *Don't Let This Happen to You* special features in the chapter. Instructors can cover a feature in class and assign the corresponding problem for homework.



EDUCATOR RESOURCES

A suite of resources are provided to assist with delivery of the text, as well as to support teaching and learning. These resources are downloadable from the Pearson website: www.pearson.com.au/9781488612497.

SOLUTIONS MANUAL

The Solutions Manual provides educators with answers to all of the end-of-chapter questions and problems in the textbook.

TEST BANK

Available in Word® format, the Test Bank provides educators with a wealth of accuracy-verified testing material for homework and quizzing. Revised to match the 4th edition, each Test Bank chapter offers a wide variety of multiple-choice and short-answer questions, ordered by key topics.

POWERPOINT LECTURE SLIDES

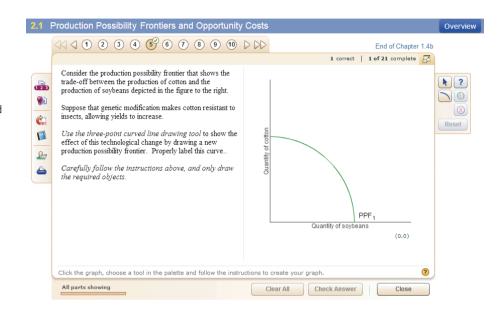
A comprehensive set of PowerPoint slides can be used by educators for class presentations or by students for lecture preview or review. They include key figures and tables, as well as a summary of key concepts and examples from the text.

MyLab Economics for Hubbard/Garnett/Lewis/O'Brien *Microeconomics*, 4th edition

A guided tour for students and educators

Auto-generated tests and assignments

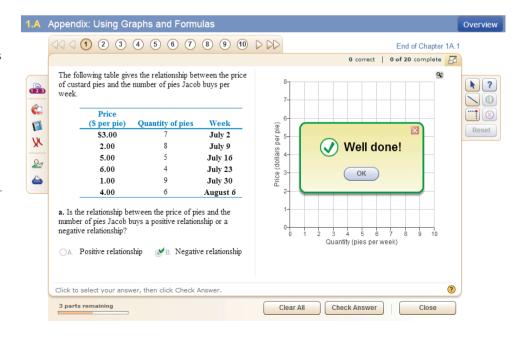
Each MyLab™ comes with preloaded assignments, all of which are automatically graded and include selected end-of-chapter questions and problems from the textbook.



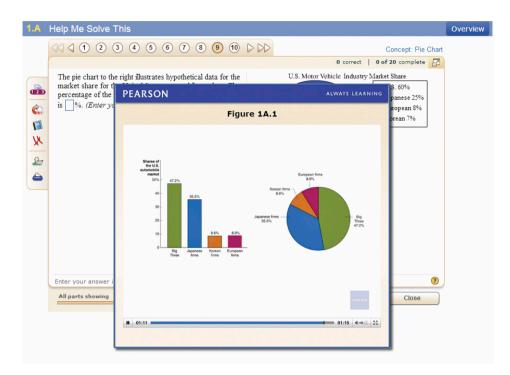
Unlimited practice

Many Study Plan and Instructor-assigned exercises contain algorithms to ensure students get as much practice as they need.

As students work through Study Plan or Homework exercises, instant feedback and tutorial resources guide them towards understanding.



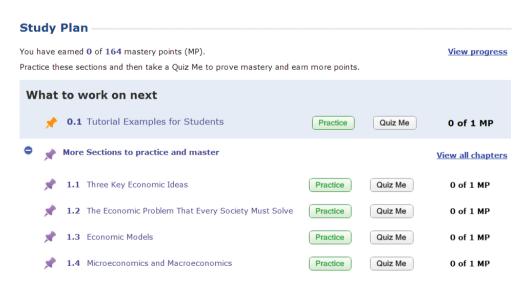
MyLab Economics www.pearsonmylabsandmastering.com



Learning resources

To further reinforce understanding, Study Plan and Homework problems link to additional learning resources.

- Step-by-step Guided Solutions
- Graphing Tool
- eText linked to sections for all Study Plan questions



Study plan

A Study Plan is generated from each student's results on quizzes and tests. Students can clearly see which topics they have mastered and, more importantly, which ones they need to work on.

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