Economics Introduction

$C(q)$ = Cost to produce quantity q items

Ex: We are starting a business that sells mugs. To begin, we must first purchase space for our facility, machinery to produce the mugs, etc. totaling $200,000. In addition, we spend $20 per case in materials to make the mugs. In general, what is the cost to produce the mugs?

Fixed cost = the portion of cost which does not depend on how many cases we produce.

Variable cost = the portion of cost which depends on the number of cases we produce.

Ex: How much will it cost to produce 1000 cases of mugs?

The additional cost to produce *one more* unit is called the <u>Marginal Cost</u>. This is the *rate of change* of Cost.

$$MC(q) = C(q+1) - C(q)$$

$R(q)$ = Amount of money brought in for the sale of quantity q items

Ex (revisited): We started a business that sells mugs. We are able to sell cases of mugs to the retailers for $60 per case. What is our revenue?

Ex: How much revenue do we get from selling 1000 cases of mugs?

The additional revenue from selling *one more* unit is called the <u>Marginal Revenue</u>. This is the *rate of change* of Revenue.

$$MR(q) = R(q+1) - R(q)$$

$P(q) =$ amount of money that a company makes from the production and sales of quantity q items.

$$Profit = Revenue - Cost$$

$$P(q) = R(q) - C(q)$$

Ex (revisited again): We started a business that sells mugs. To begin, we first invested $200,000 up front. In addition, we spend $20 per case in materials to make the mugs. We are able to sell cases of mugs to the retailers for $60 per case. What is our profit?

Ex: How much profit do we get from selling 1000 cases of mugs?

How many do we need to sell so that we don't lose money?

The break-even point is:

Ex (revisited): What is the break-even point for our mug business?

Supply is the quantity of a product that the manufacturer is willing to produce.

Supply can be thought of as a function of the price, p, that the product sells for.

Demand is the quantity of a product that the public is willing to buy.

Demand can be thought of as a function of the price, p, that the product sells for.
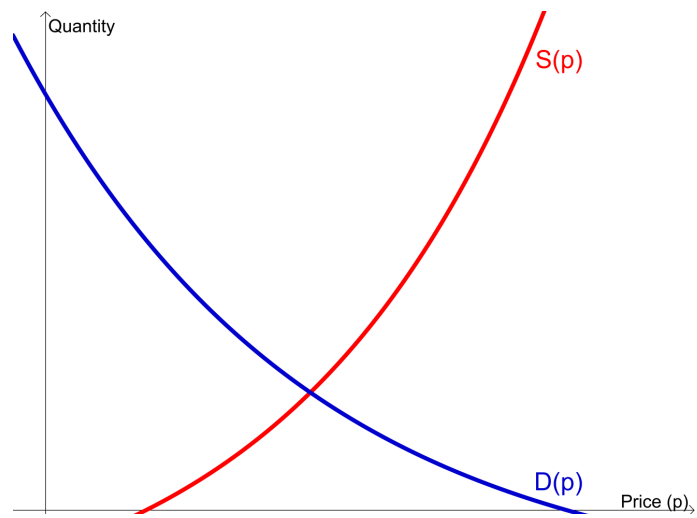
The Equilibrium Point is the point at which

$$S(p) = D(p)$$

The price at the Equilibrium Point is called the <u>Equilibrium Price</u>.

The quantity at the Equilibrium Point is called the <u>Equilibrium Quantity</u>.

Example: Suppose that the supply and demand functions are given by:

$$S(p) = 2p - 4 \qquad\qquad D(p) = 5 - p$$

What is the equilibrium point?