

1. purpose of an economic model
to simplify reality so we can understand and predict economic behavior.
2. marginal analysis and rational behavior
rational people do something only if marginal benefit $>$ marginal cost.
- 3 Example of a behavioral assumption + purpose
Example: consumers try to maximize utility
purpose: to simplify behavior so models even make clear predictions.
4. Habit - based decisions: rational or not?
not strictly rational, because the person isn't comparing benefits and costs.
5. How models abstract + why unrealistic models are useful;
models simplify real life by ignoring details
they are useful because simple models help explain key idea and predict outcomes