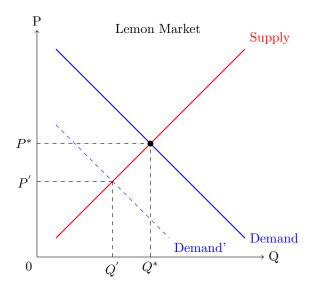
Substitute and complementary markets

Suppose that tea and lemon are complementary goods, and that coffee and tea are substitutes.

- a) How will an effective price ceiling on tea affect the price of lemons, if at all? Explain your answer.
- b) How will an effective price ceiling on tea affect the price of coffee, if at all? Explain your answer.

Solution

1. If the price ceiling for tea is set below the equilibrium price, there will be excess demand. Some people willing to buy at a higher price will be unable to do so. Since the equilibrium quantity of tea demanded decreases, people will also consume less lemon. In the lemon market, this is reflected as a reduction in demand.



2. In this situation, people will demand more coffee, as those unable to buy tea due to the shortage caused by the price ceiling will shift toward a substitute market: coffee. This results in a shift in the coffee demand curve.

