

Practice Problems: Sudden Stops

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1. What is a sudden stop and why might it occur? Is it a problem for developed or emerging markets? Why are they usually part of “twin crises”? Explain.
2. Suppose a country’s current account is in deficit. Suddenly international lenders stop lending them funds.
 - a. Which account in the balance of payments is hit first?
 - b. Link the balance of payments identity to the national income identity to discuss what must happen as a result of the sudden stop.
 - c. Can’t a country just use its international reserves to offset the sudden stop? Explain.
3. Consider a country that suffers a sudden stop.
 - a. Use an Aggregate Supply – Aggregate Demand diagram to show what happens to the price level in the short run.
 - b. If wages are relatively slow to adjust, what happens to the real wage in the short run and what are the implications of this (in terms of AS-AD and labor markets)?
 - c. Using all the above, discuss whether the effects of the sudden stop will be short term or longer term.
4. Consider a country that suffers a sudden stop.
 - a. Use an Aggregate Supply – Aggregate Demand diagram to show what happens to the economy in the short run. (Same answer as #2 (a)).
 - b. Using the AS-AD diagram, discuss what policy options are normally available during a recession?
 - c. Which policies might not be feasible during a sudden stop episode? Explain.
5. During a sudden stop, domestic interest rates are usually high.
 - a. Explain why this might happen.
 - b. If the central bank tries using international reserves to ease the pain of the sudden stop, what would this do to nominal interest rates? (Hint: use a money market diagram). Is this a short – or long-run effect on nominal interest rates?
 - c. Given what you know about sudden stops and the loanable funds market, what predictions might you make for real interest rates in a crisis country? Would this have a short – or long-run effect on the economy?
6. Recall that the real exchange rate is defined as the price of traded goods over the price of home goods (i.e., $\varepsilon \equiv P^T / P^H$).
 - a. For the same percentage fall in demand for home and traded goods, what happens to the real exchange rate in small open economies? Explain.
 - b. How might this relative price swing affect the traded and home good sectors of the economy? Explain.
7. Discuss why the maturity structure of a country’s debt might matter for a sudden stop.