Chapter 3 Example:

Simpson's paradox example:

It's the last inning of important game. Your team is a run down with the bases loaded and two outs. The pitcher is due up, so you'll be sending in a pinch-hitter. There are 2 batters available on the bench. Whom should you send in to bat?

Player	**Overall**	**vs LHP**	**vs RHP**
A	33 for 103 (.320)	28 for 81 (.346)	5 for 22 (.227)
B	46 for 151 (.305)	12 for 32 (.375)	34 for 119 (.286)

A's batting average is higher than B's (.320 vs. .305), so he looks like the better choice. Consider the issue that it matters whether the pitcher throws right- or left-handed.

It turns out that B has a higher batting average against both right- and left-handed pitching, even though his overall average is lower.

Here's the explanation. B hits better against both right- and left-handed pitchers. So no matter the pitcher, B is a better choice. So why is his batting "average" lower? B sees a lot more right-handed pitchers than A, and (at least for these guys) right-handed pitchers are harder to hit. For some reason, A is used mostly against left-handed pitchers, so A has a higher overall average.