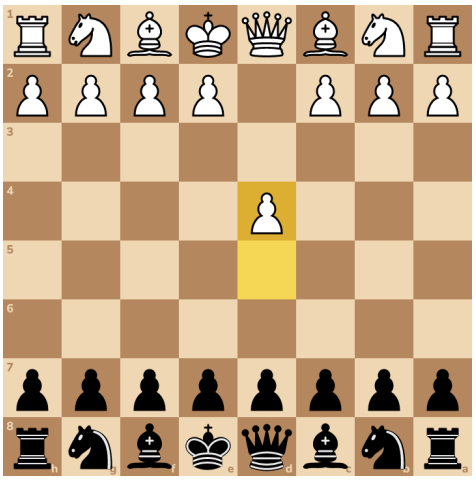
My Chess Family

Playing Black: they play d4, you play d5

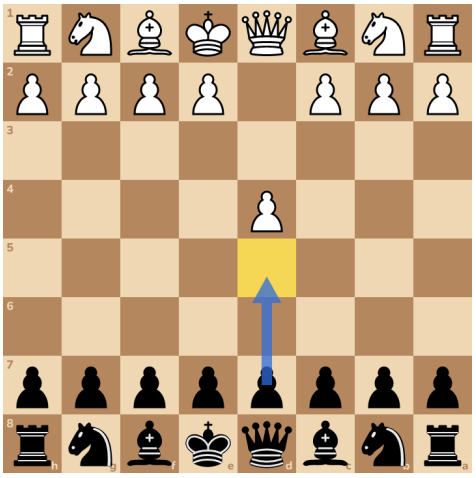
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

They play d4, you play d5

You're Black, and White started with d4. A good answer is to put your own pawn in the centre, on d5.



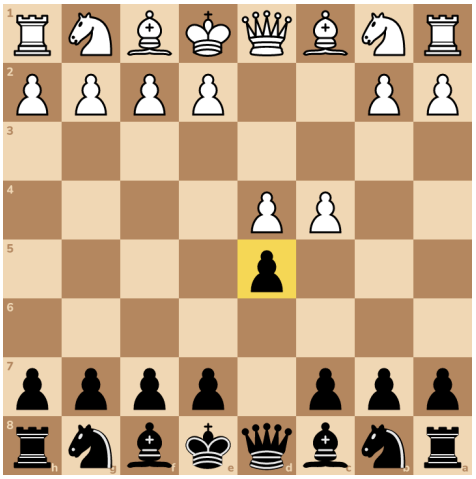
Try it 1. Push your d-pawn two squares.



Look what White just did. The pawn on c4 attacks your pawn on d5.



You could take it. But then your pawn leaves the centre. A good plan here is to keep your pawn on d5 and guard it.



Try it 2. Guard d5 with a pawn. Push your e-pawn one square.



White's knight attacks d5 too. Count. Two attackers. Your pawn on e6 and your queen guard it. Two guards, so it's safe.



Try it 3. Bring out a knight that guards d5 as well.



White's bishop pins your knight. If the knight moves away, the bishop could take your queen.



Try it 4. Put your bishop on e7, between them. Now the knight is free to move.



Try it 5. Castle!



Well done. You took a share of the centre with d5 and kept it safe with e6. Then a knight, a bishop, and your king tucked away.

When White starts another way

Sometimes White starts with a move on the edge, like h4. It doesn't fight for the centre. So you can take the centre for yourself!

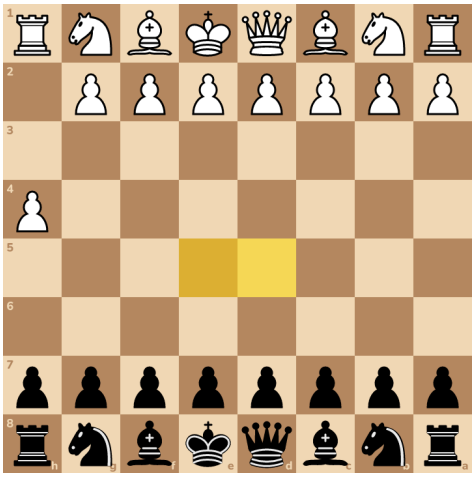


Good. If White keeps playing on the edge, take the other centre square too. Then bring out your pieces.

Here White started with c4. It's a good move. That pawn guards d5 from the side.



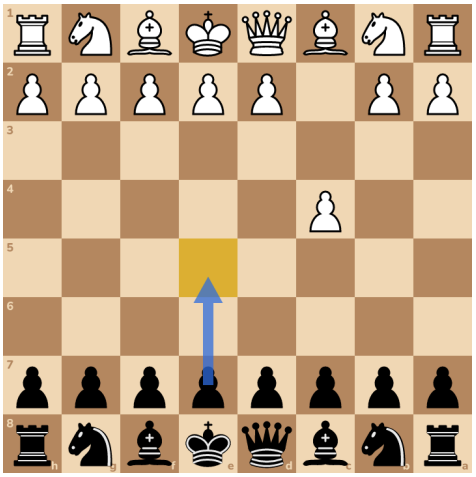
Try it 6. Push a pawn two squares into the centre.



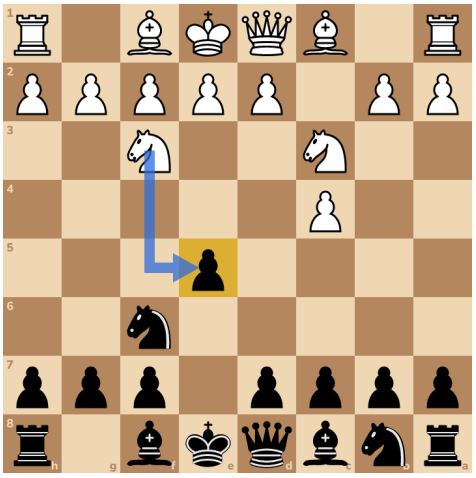
You can still take a share of the centre. Nothing of White's looks at e5, so that's a good square.



Try it 7. Push your e-pawn two squares.



Look what White just did. The knight on f3 attacks your pawn on e5.

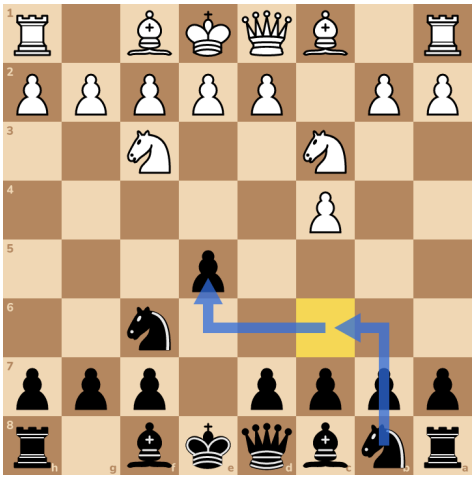


Good. Whatever White plays first, the ideas are the same. Take a share of the centre, bring out pieces, guard what's attacked, castle.

Try it 8. Bring out a knight, to f6.



Try it 9. Guard e5 with your other knight.



Answers

1. d5



2. e6



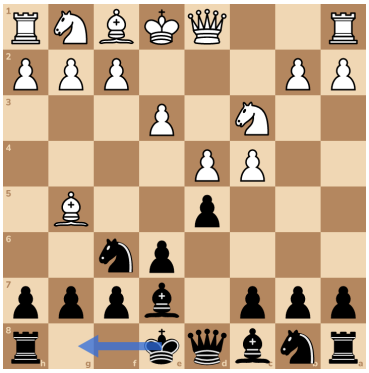
3. Nf6



4. Be7



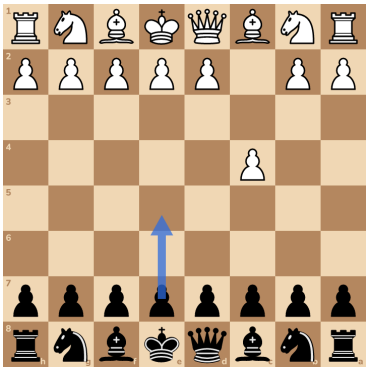
5. O-O



6. e5 or d5



7. e5



8. Nf6



9. Nc6

