My Chess Family

Playing Black: they play e4, you play e5

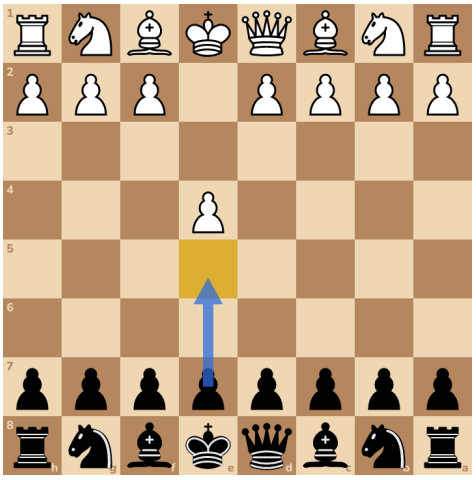
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

They play e4, you play e5

Now you're Black. White always moves first, and White played e4. The pawn takes a square in the centre. What's a good answer?



Try it 1. Push your e-pawn two squares, into the centre.



The same ideas work for Black. Take a share of the centre, bring out your pieces, and make your king safe.



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



Try it 2. What should you do?

A: Guard the pawn **B: Ignore it**

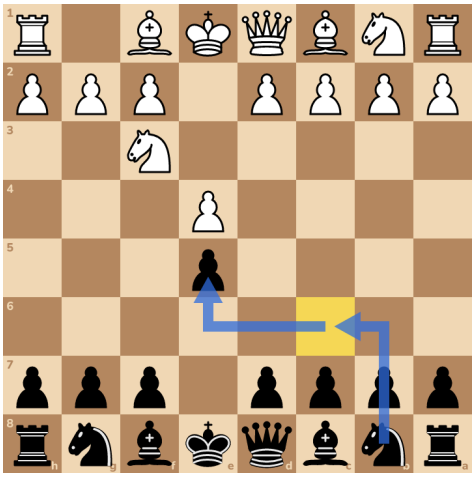
White's bishop looks at f7, next to your king. Only your king guards f7. It's your weak spot, so keep an eye on it.



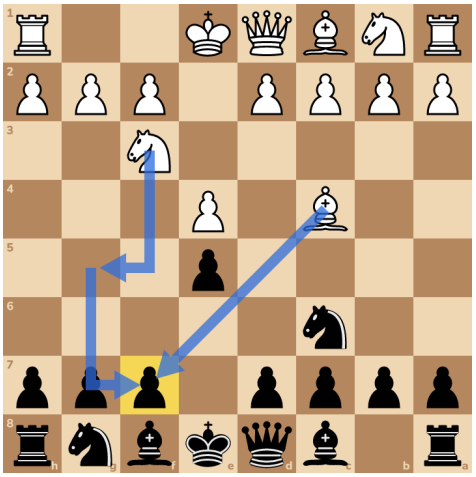
So keep f7 in mind. Bring out your bishop first, then your knight, and castle soon. Once you've castled, your rook helps guard f7.



Try it 3. Guard e5 with a knight. It comes out and does a job at the same time.



Watch out for a trick. White's knight might jump to g5 soon. Then the knight and the bishop would both attack f7.



Your bishop can come out to a good square. On c5 it looks at f2, White's weak spot.



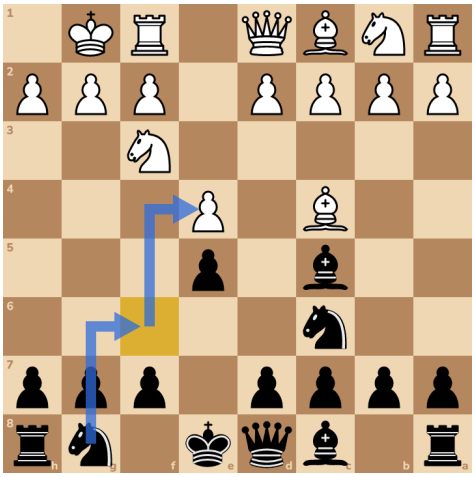
Try it 4. Bring your bishop to c5.



White castled. Your turn to get ready. Your knight on g8 still needs to come out, and then your king can castle.



Try it 5. Bring your knight out to f6. It attacks White's pawn on e4 too.



White guarded e4 with a pawn. Everything on your side is ready now.



Try it 6. Castle!



Your king is safe. Now if White's knight jumps to g5, f7 has two guards, your king and your rook. The trick doesn't work.



Well done. White played e4, you answered e5 and used the same three ideas. When White attacked your pawn, you guarded it.



Answers

1. e5



2. A: Guard the pawn

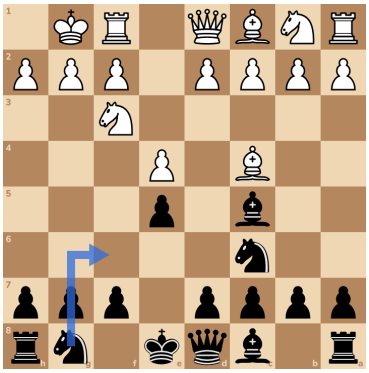
3. Nc6



4. Bc5



5. Nf6



6. O-O

