My Chess Family

Playing Black: when White's queen comes out early

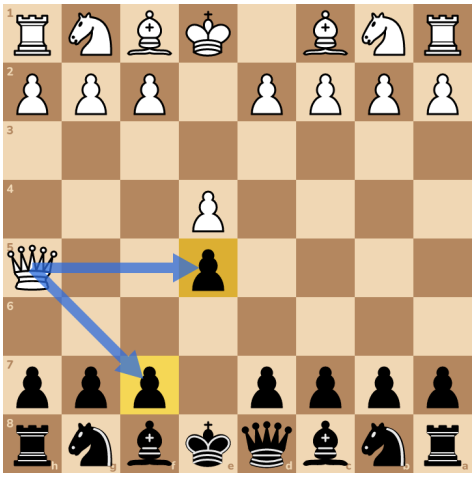
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

When the queen comes out early

You met this in Level 2. White's queen jumps out early, hoping for Scholar's mate. Now let's play it right through, and see what happens next.



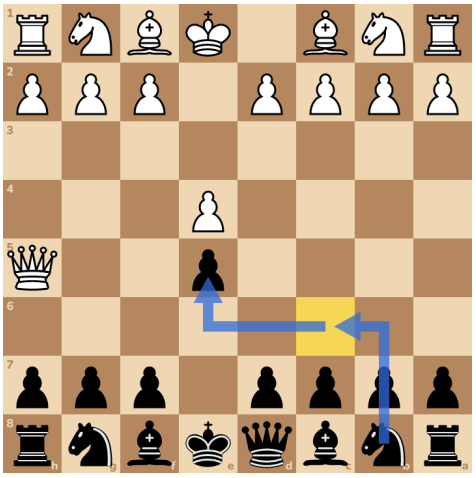
What is she attacking? Your pawn on e5, and f7, the square next to your king.



Try it 1. Does anything guard your pawn on e5?

A: Yes **B: No**

Try it 2. Guard e5 with a knight. It comes out and does a job at the same time.



Danger! White's bishop and queen both look at f7. If the queen takes on f7, it's checkmate.



The queen ran away. But look! She aims at f7 again, with the bishop. The same trick.



Your knight blocks the queen, and it came out at the same time. The queen can't get through to f7 now.



Try it 3. You know this trap. Stop it the way that attacks the queen too. Push your g-pawn one square.



Try it 4. Bring your knight out to f6. It stands in the queen's way.



Try it 5. Your g6 pawn opened a door. Bring your bishop out to g7.



Try it 6. Castle!



Well done. The early queen looked scary. You guarded e5, blocked f7, and brought out pieces each time. Now your king is safe.

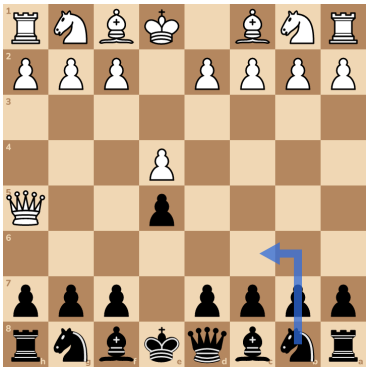
Remember. When a queen comes out early, ask what she attacks. Guard it with a piece that comes out at the same time.



Answers

1. B: No

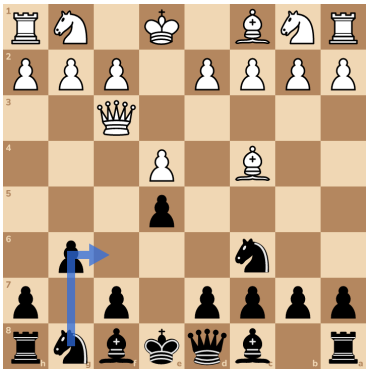
2. Nc6



3. g6



4. Nf6



5. Bg7



6. O-O

