My Chess Family

You play d4, they play d5: a plan for beginners

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

You play d4, they play d5

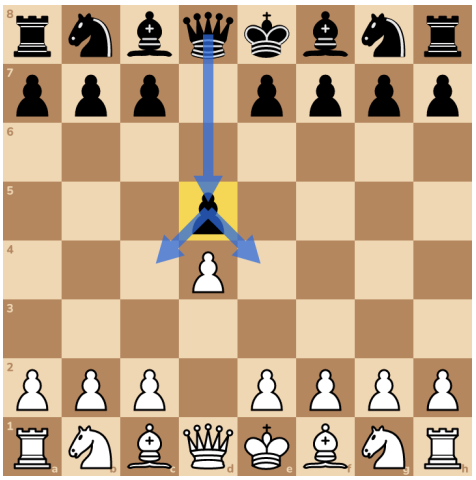
You played d4, and Black answered with d5. The two pawns face each other. Neither can move forward now.



Here's a good plan for this position. Attack Black's pawn from the side, with a pawn on c4.



Black's pawn guards c4 and e4. And Black's queen guards it. So you can't attack it with your e-pawn easily.



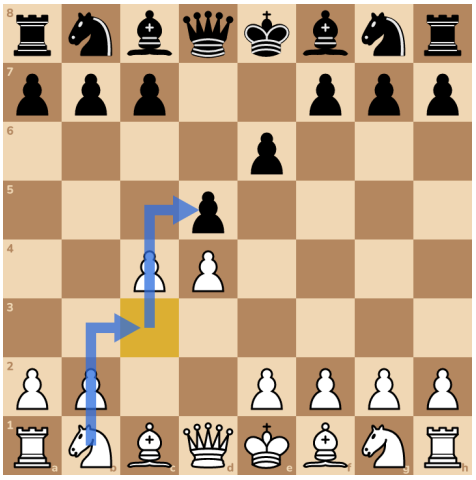
Try it 1. Push your c-pawn two squares.



Your c4 pawn attacks d5. If Black took it, Black's pawn would leave the centre. Then you could push e4, and your bishop could win the pawn back.



Try it 2. Bring your knight to c3. It attacks d5 too.



Your bishop on c1 can come out to g5. There it pins Black's knight. If the knight moves, your bishop can take Black's queen.



Black didn't take. Black guarded d5 with a pawn on e6 instead. A good move. Now bring out a knight to attack d5 again.



Black's knight comes out and guards d5 too. It's two attackers against three guards. So leave d5 alone, and bring out more pieces.



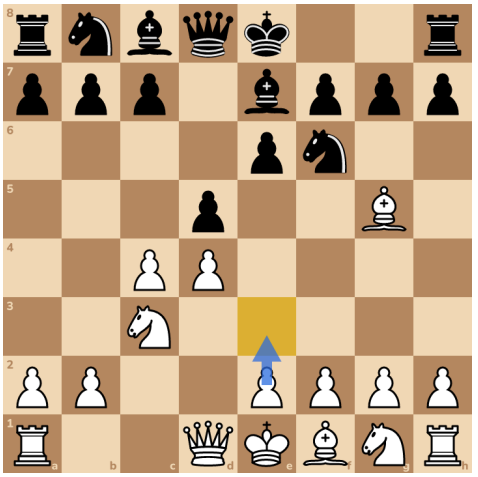
Try it 3. Bring your bishop out to g5.



Black put a bishop between them, so the knight is free again. Now push your e-pawn one square. It opens a door for your other bishop.



Try it 4. Push your e-pawn one square.



Try it 5. Black castled. Bring out your last knight, to f3. Then you'll be nearly ready to castle too.



Well done. You pushed c4 to attack Black's centre pawn. You brought out two knights and a bishop, and opened a door for your other bishop.

Next your bishop on f1 comes out, and you castle. Black played e6 and Nf6 here. If Black plays something else, look at what it does first.

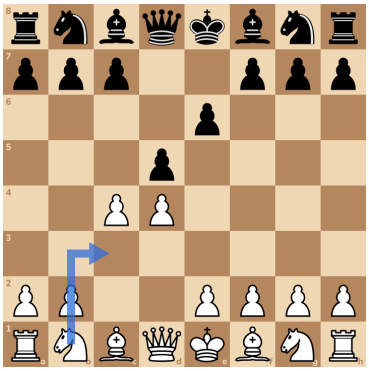


Answers

1. c4



2. Nc3



3. Bg5



4. e3



5. Nf3

