My Chess Family

You play d4, they play something odd: what to think about

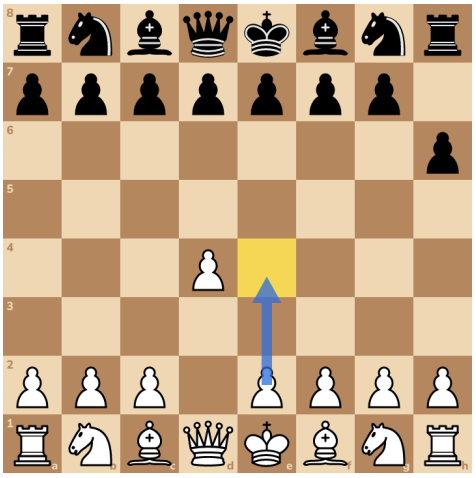
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

You play d4, they play something else

Here Black answered d4 with an edge move, h6. It doesn't fight for the centre. So take more of it!



Try it 1. Push your e-pawn two squares, next to your d-pawn.



Two pawns side by side in the centre. Black played another edge move, so bring out your pieces.



Try it 2. Bring out a knight, to f3.



Try it 3. Now a bishop, to d3. It guards your pawn on e4.



Nice. When they don't take the centre, you take it. Then pieces out and king safe.

Here's a different surprise. Black played e5, right next to your pawn. It looks brave, but count. Is that pawn guarded?



Try it 4. Castle!



Try it 5. How many of Black's pieces guard the pawn on e5?

A: 0 **B: 1** **C: 2**

Try it 6. Nothing guards it. Take the pawn!



You're a pawn up. But look what Black just did. The knight on c6 attacks your pawn on e5.



Try it 7. Guard your pawn with a knight that comes out at the same time.



Well done. A pawn ahead, and a piece out. When they put a pawn where you can take it, count first. If nothing guards it, take it!

So when they play something unusual, ask. Does it attack anything? Can I take something for free? Does it leave the centre to me?



Answers

1. e4



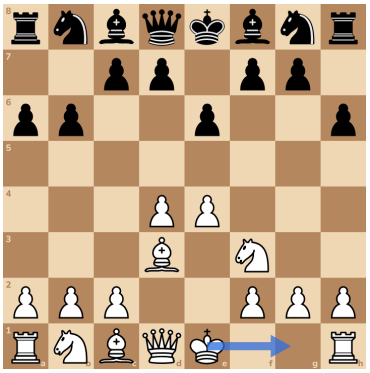
2. Nf3



3. Bd3

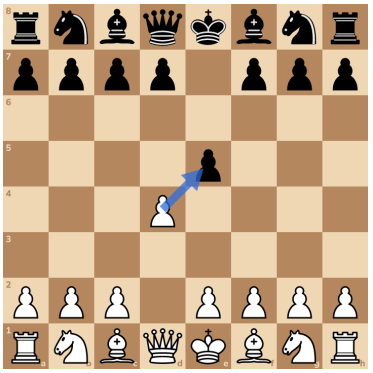


4. O-O



5. A: 0

6. dxe5



7. Nf3

