My Chess Family

You play e4, they play something odd: what to think about

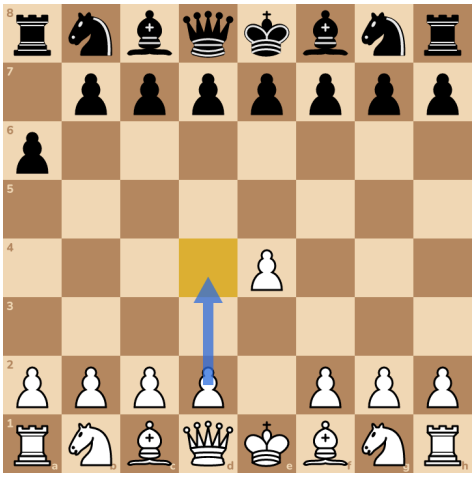
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

You play e4, they play something else

Sometimes the other player plays a move that doesn't fight for the centre at all. Here Black pushed a pawn on the edge, a6.



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



That pawn guards only b5, on the side. It leaves the centre for you. So here's the idea. Take more of the centre while you can!



Two pawns side by side in the centre! Together they guard c5, d5, e5 and f5.



Black played another edge move, h6. It guards only g5, and it attacks nothing of yours. So bring out your pieces instead.



Try it 3. Now a bishop. On d3 it guards your pawn on e4 too.



Try it 2. Bring a knight out towards the centre, to f3.



Black's knight attacks e4. Count. One attacker, and your bishop guards it. If the knight takes, your bishop takes the knight. So e4 is safe.



Try it 4. Castle!



Your pawn can take it. If Black's queen takes back, she'll be out in the middle very early.



Nice. When they don't take the centre, you take it. Then bring out your pieces and castle.

Here's a different surprise. Black played d5 straight away. That pawn attacks your pawn on e4.

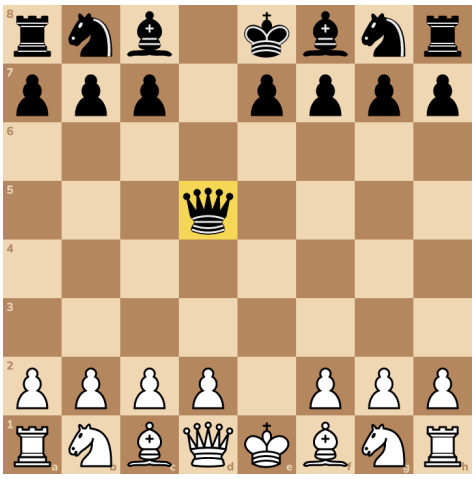


Try it 5. Take the pawn on d5.



Black's queen is in the centre. That's a chance for you. Can you bring out a piece AND attack the queen at the same time?

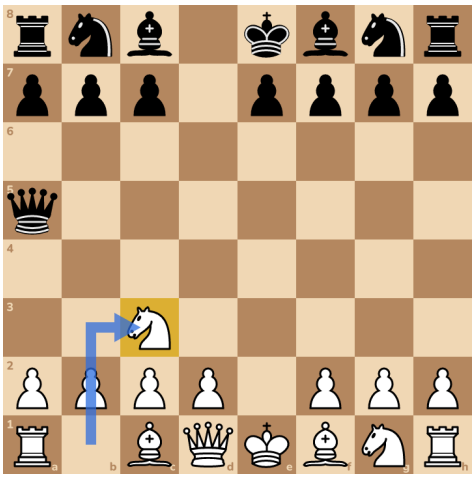
Try it 6. Bring out the knight that attacks the queen.



Remember. Chasing the queen is good when it brings out your pieces too.



The queen had to run away. You brought out a piece, and Black only moved the queen again. You're ahead in the race to get pieces out.



So when they play something unusual, ask two questions. Does it attack anything? Does it leave the centre to you? Then pieces out, king safe.

Answers

1. d4



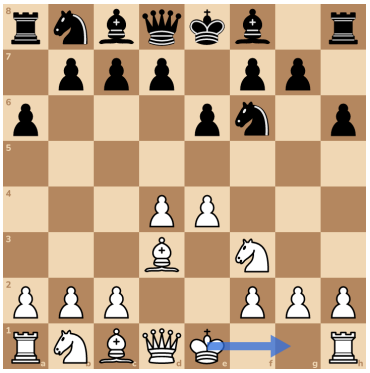
2. Nf3



3. Bd3



4. O-O



5. exd5



6. Nc3

