

## Key chess ideas - 2

Always look to see if you can **CHECK** your opponent – and whether it does any good

1. e4 f6? (If now 2. ♖h5+ black blocks with 2... g6, so a bit of patience .. ) 2. d4 g5?? 3. ♖h5# The Three-Move Checkmate.

**You may have to sacrifice a piece in order to check – is it worth it?**

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 f6? 3. ♘xe5! fxe5? 4. ♖h5+ ♕e7 (if 4...g6 5. ♖xe5+ wins the rook on h8) 5. ♖xe5+ ♖f7 6. ♗c4+! ♖g6 7. ♖f5+ ♖h6 8. d4+ g5 9. h4! ♗e7 10. hxg5+ ♖g7 11. ♖f7#

Note the use of the double check! – try to check your opponent's king with 2 pieces at the one time – it is the most powerful weapon you have as it forces the king to move, since you cannot capture or block two checks at the one time.

**Try to attack rather than defend and put your opponent under pressure**

Here is a strong answer to the 4-Move Mate – black punishes white for bringing the Queen out early.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖h5 ♘f6! 3. ♖xe5+ ♗e7 4. d4 ♘c6 5. ♖g5 ♘xe4 6. ♖xg7 ♗f6 (Guarding the rook using an X-Ray) 7. ♖g4 d5 8. ♖f3 ♘xd4 9. ♖d3 ♗f5 and all of black's pieces are working beautifully – black will also follow up with ♖e7 and 0-0-0 – queenside castling.

**Try to set ambushes for your opponent – like discovered and double check**

Here is the trap in the Petroff (or Russian) Defence

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3. ♘xe5 ♘xe4? (Too soon – better is 3... d6 to drive the knight back first) 4. ♖e2! ♘f6? 5. ♘c6+!! (A discovered check) ♗e7 6. ♘xd8 ♖xd8

White is winning easily – but take care black can try to set a counter trap!

7. d4 ♖e8 8. ♖d1 ♗b4# Double check – the king has to move but can't so it is mate.

**Read and study as many books as possible – there are hundreds of beautiful ideas.**

Here is the beautiful **Legal's Checkmate**.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. ♗c4 ♗g4 4. ♘c3 h6? 5. ♘xe5!!! ♗xd1?? 6. ♗xf7+ ♖e7 7. ♘d5# 1-0

And here is a game with a **similar theme** – but for black this time.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3. ♘xe5 ♘c6?! (A dubious but interesting gambit – sacrifice of a pawn or piece in the opening in order to gain time to bring out (develop) your pieces) 4. ♘xc6 dxc6 5. d3 ♗c5 6. ♗g5? ♘xe4!!! 7. ♗xd8?? ♗xf2+ 8. ♖e2 ♗g4# 0-1

## AG vs Garcia-Blanco Freytag Open 2008

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. g4 Be4 5. f3 Bg6 6. h4 h5 7. Ne2 e6 8. Nf4 hxg4  
9. Nxc6 fxg6 10. Qd3 Ne7 11. fxg4 Nd7 12. Nc3 Qb6 13. a4 a5 14. Ra3 Qc7 15. Rb3  
O-O-O 16. Qa6!! Nxe5 17. Qa7! Nxc6 18. Bf4! e5 (if Qxf4 19. Qxb7++) 19. Rxb7 and  
black resigned