

Fifty Pitfalls in Chess Openings

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Tartakower once said: "Sacrifices only prove that someone blundered." The same holds true with chess traps in the opening. Someone did NOT make the best move. The idea in looking over a few of the thousands of traps, is so that YOU do not fall into any of them, eventually!

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No. 1: 1.P-KN4,P-K4; 2.P-KB3,Q-R5 mate. The Fool's mate. This has its counter-part with

No. 2: 1.P-K4,P-KN4; 2.B-B4,P-KB3; 3.Q-R5 mate.

No. 3: The one tried most often by beginners is the famous Scholar's Mate: 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.B-B4,B-B4; 3.Q-R5,N-QB3; 4.QxBP mate.

No. 4: I have often caught opponents napping with the following trap: 1.P-K4, P-K4; 2.N-KB3,P-KB3; 3.NxP,PxN; 4.Q-R5ch,K-K2; (See if 4 . . . P-KN3; 5.QxKPch,Q-K2; 6.QxR and wins). 5.QxPch; K-B2; 6.B-B4ch,K-N3; 7.Q-B5ch,K-R3; 8.P-Q4ch,P-N4; 9.P-KR4,P-Q3; 10.PxPd.ch.,K-B2; 11.Q-B7 mate.

No. 5: Here we see a Queen's sacrifice that leads to trouble: 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,N-QB3; 3.B-B4,P-Q3; 4.N-B3,B-N5; 5.O-O,N-Q5; 6.NxKP,BxQ; 7.BxPch,K-K2; 8.N-Q5 mate.

No. 6: When I started to play I was puzzled by the following: 1.P-Q4,P-Q4; 2.P-QB4,P-K3; 3.N-QB3,N-KB3; 4.B-N5,QN-Q2; 5.PxP,PxP; and wondered why I could not play 6.NxP; until I discovered that Black would play: 6 . . . NxN; 7. BxQ,B-N5ch and win.

No. 7: 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,P-Q3; 3.P-Q4,B-N5; 4.PxP,BxN; (If 4 . . . PxP; 5.QxQch,KxQ; 6.NxP etc.) 5.QxB,PxP; 6.B-QB4,N-KB3; 7.Q-QN3,P-QN3; 8.BxPch,K-Q2; 9.Q-K6 mate. (From a blindfold exhibition in Spain.)

No. 8: 1.P-K4,P-QB3; 2.P-Q4,P-Q4; 3.P-K5,B-B4; 4.B-Q3,B-N3?; 5.P-K6,PxP; 6.BxBch,PxB; 7.Q-N4,K-B2; 8.N-KB3 wins easy.

No. 9: A mistake often made by beginners in the Petroff's Defense: 1.P-K4, P-K4; 2.N-KB3,N-KB3; 3.NxP,NxP?; 4.Q-K2,P-Q4; 5.P-Q3,N-B4?; 6.N-B6 d.ch.

No. 10: 1.P-KN4,P-Q4; 2.B-N2,BxP; 3.P-QB4! and White has the better game!

No. 11: 1.P-Q4,P-QB4; 2.P-QB4,PxP; 3.N-KB3,P-K4; 4.NxKP?,Q-R4ch and Black gains a piece. That could happen in the Sicilian Defense too:

No. 12: 1.P-K4,P-QB4; 2.P-Q4,PxP; 3.N-KB3,P-K4; 4.NxKP?,Q-R4ch.

No. 13: 1.P-K4,P-QB4; 2.N-KB3,N-QB3; 3.P-Q4,PxP; 4.NxP,N-B3; 5.B-QB4, P-Q4; 6.PxP,NxP; 7.N-N5,P-K3; 8.BxN,PxB; 9.QxP,QxQ; 10.N-B7ch etc.

No. 14: 1.P-K4,P-QB4; 2.N-KB3,N-QB3; 3.P-Q4,PxP; 4.NxP,N-B3; 5.N-QB3, P-K4; 6.N4-K2,B-B4; 7.P-B3,Q-N3; 8.Q-Q3,N-N5; White resigns, he will lose his queen or be mated.

No. 15: A common one in the Ruy: 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,N-QB3; 3.B-N5, P-QR3; 4.B-R4,P-Q3; 5.P-Q4;P-QN4; 6.B-N3,NxP; 7.NxN,PxN; 8.QxP?, P-QB4; 9.Q-Q5,B-K3; 10.Q-B6ch,B-Q2; 11.Q-Q5,P-B5 and wins.

No. 16: 1.P-Q4,N-KB3; 2.P-QB4,P-KN3; 3.N-QB3,B-N2; 4.P-K4,P-Q3; 5.N-B3, O-O; 6.B-Q3,B-N5; 7.P-KR3,BxN; 8.QxB,N-B3; 9.B-K3,N-Q2; 10.N-K2, N2-K4! wins.

No. 17: 1.P-K4,P-QB3; 2.P-Q4,P-Q4; 3.N-QB3,PxP; 4.NxP,B-B4; 5.B-Q3, QxP; 6.N-KB3,Q-Q1; 7.Q-K2,N-B3; 8.NxNch,PxN; 9.BxB,Q-R4ch; 10.B-Q2, QxBB4; 11.O-O-O,Q-K3; 12.Q-Q3,QxRP; 13.Q-Q8ch,KxQ; 14.B-N5 d.ch and mate next move.

No. 18: Ever fallen into this one? 1.P-K4,P-Q4; 2.PxP,QxP; 3.N-QB3,Q-B3?; 4.B-N5 or

No. 19: 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,N-QB3; 3.B-B4,N-Q5; 4.NxP?,Q-N4 and Black wins.

- No. 20:** 1.P-K4,P-QB3; 2.P-Q4,N-B3; 3.B-Q3,P-Q4; 4.P-K5,KN-Q2?; 5.P-K6, PxP; 6.Q-R5ch etc.
- No. 21:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.B-B4,N-QB3; 3.N-KB3,P-B3; 4.N-R4,P-KN4?; 5.Q-R5ch,K-K2; 6.N-B5 mate.
- No. 22:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.B-B4,N-KB3; 3.P-Q4,PxP; 4.P-K5,P-Q4; 5.B-Q3, N-K5; 6.N-K2,Q-R5; 7.P-KN3,N-N4; 8.PxQ,N-B6ch; 9.K-B1,B-R6 mate.
- No. 23:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.P-KB4,P-Q4; 3.KPxP,P-K5; 4.P-B4,N-KB3; 5.P-KR3?, NxQP; 6.PxN,Q-R5ch; 7.K-K2,B-QB4; 8.Q-K1,B-N5ch; 9.N-B3?,PxNch; 10.K-K1c.ch,QxQch; 11.KxQ,P-B7 mate.
- No. 24:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.P-Q4,N-QB3; 3.P-Q5,N3-K2; 4.P-KB4,P-Q3; 5.N-KB3, B-N5; 6.N-B3,N-N3; 7.P-KR3,BxB; 8.B-N5ch,P-B3; 9.PxP,BxQ; 10.PxPch, K-K2; 11.N-Q5ch,K-K3; 12.P-B5 mate.
- No. 25:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.B-B4,N-KB3; 3.N-KB3,NxP; 4.N-B3,NxN; 5.QPxN, P-KB3; 6.O-O,P-B3; 7.NxP,P-Q4; 8.Q-R5ch,P-N3; 9.NxNP,PxN; 10.QxR, PxP; 11.B-R6 wins.
- No. 26:** 1.P-Q4,P-Q4; 2.P-QB4,PxP; 3.P-K3,P-QN4; 4.P-QR4,P-QB3; 5.PxP, PxP; 6.Q-B3 wins.
- No. 27:** 1.P-Q4,N-KB3; 2.N-Q2,P-K4; 3.PxP,N-N5; 4.P-KR3?,N-K6 and it's all over but the shouting!
- No. 28:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,P-Q3; 3.P-Q4,N-Q2; 4.B-QB4,B-K2; 5.PxP, PxP?; 6.Q-Q5 wins.
- No. 29:** 1.P-K4,P-QB4; 2.P-Q4,PxP; 3.P-QB3,PxP; 4.NxP,P-Q3; 5.N-B3,N-Q2; 6.B-QB4,P-K3; 7.B-B4,P-K4?; 8.Q-N3 with a winning position.
- No. 30:** 1.P-K4,N-KB3; 2.P-K5,N-Q4; 3.P-QB4,N-N3; 4.P-B5,N-Q4; 5.N-QB3, P-K3; 6.B-QB4,NxN; 7.PxN,BxB; 8.P-Q4,Q-R5; 9.B-Q3,B-K2?; 10.P-KN3 wins.
- No. 31:** 1.P-KB4,P-K4; 2.PxP,P-Q3; 3.PxP,BxP; 4.N-KB3,P-KN4; 5.P-Q4, P-N5; 6.KN-Q2?,Q-R5ch; 7.P-N3,QxNPch; 8.PxQ,BxP; mate.
- No. 32:** 1.P-K4,P-K3; 2.N-K2,P-Q4; 3.PxP,PxP; 4.N-N3,Q-R5; 5.P-Q4,N-KB3; 6.P-QB3,N-B3; 7.B-Q3,B-Q3; 8.Q-K2ch,B-K3?; 9.N-B5,Q-KN5; 10.P-B3 wins.
- No. 33:** 1.P-Q4,P-Q4; 2.P-QB4,P-K3; 3.N-QB3,N-KB3; 4.B-N5,P-B3; 5.P-K3, QN-Q2; 6.R-B1,Q-R4; 7.P-QR3?,N-K5; 8.B-B4,NxN; 9.RxN,BxRP; wins.
- No. 34:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,N-QB3; 3.B-N5,N-B3; 4.P-Q3,N-K2; 5.NxP, P-B3; 6.N-B4,P-Q3; 7.B-R4,P-QN4 wins.
- No. 35:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,P-KB3; 3.NxP,Q-K2; 4.Q-R5ch?,P-N3; 5.NxNP,QxPch; 6.B-K2,QxN; wins.
- No. 36:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,N-QB3; 3.P-Q4,PxP; 4.B-B4,B-K2; 5.P-QB3, PxP; 6.Q-Q5,N-R3; 7.BxN,O-O; 8.B-QB1,N-N5; 9.Q-Q1,P-B7.
- No. 37:** 1.P-K4,P-QB3; 2.N-QB3,P-Q4; 3.P-Q4,PxP; 4.NxP,N-B3; 5.NxNch, KPxN; 6.B-QB4,B-K2; 7.Q-R5,O-O; 8.N-K2,P-KN3?; 9.Q-B3,N-Q2; 10.B-KR6,R-K1; 11.BxPch,KxB; 12.Q-N3 mate!
- No. 38:** 1.P-Q4,N-KB3; 2.P-QB4,P-K3; 3.N-QB3,P-Q4; 4.PxP,PxP; 5.B-N5, P-B3; 6.P-K3,B-K2; 7.Q-B2,N-K5?; 8.BxB,QxB; 9.NxP,PxN; 10.QxBch, Q-Q1; 11.B-N5ch wins.
- No. 39:** 1.P-Q4,N-KB3; 2.P-QB4,P-K3; 3.N-KB3,P-Q4; 4.P-KN3,OPxP; 5.QN-Q2,P-B4; 6.PxP,BxP; 7.B-N2?,BxPch; 8.KxB,N-N5ch; 9.K-K1,N-K6; 10.Q-R4ch,B-Q2 wins.

- No. 40:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,N-QB3; 3.P-Q4,PxP; 4.NxP,Q-R5; 5.Q-Q3, N-B3; 6.N-Q2,N-KN5; 7.P-KN3,Q-B3; 8.N4-B3,N3-K4; 9.Q-B3,B-N5! wins.
- No. 41:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,N-QB3; 3.B-B4,N-B3; 4.P-Q4,PxP; 5.O-O,NxP; 6.R-K1,P-Q4; 7.N-B3,PxN; 8.BxP,B-K3; 9.RxN?,N-K2 wins.
- No. 42:** 1.P-Q4,N-KB3; 2.N-KB3,P-K3; 3.B-N5,P-B3; 4.P-K4,Q-N3; 5.QN-Q2, QxNP; 6.N-B4,Q-N5ch; 7.P-B3,QxPch; 8.B-Q2 and wins.
- No. 43:** 1.P-Q4,N-KB3; 2.P-QB4,P-KN3; 3.Q-B2,P-Q4; 4.PxP,NxP; 5.P-K4, N-N3; 6.N-QB3,QxP; 7.N-N5,Q-N5ch; 8.B-Q2,Q-QR5; 9.P-QN3, wins.
- No. 44:** 1.P-Q4,P-QB4; 2.PxP,P-K3; 3.P-K4,BxP; 4.N-QB3,Q-B3; 5.N-B3, P-QN3; 6.P-K5,Q-B4; 7.B-Q3,Q-N5; 8.P-KR3,QxNP; 9.R-R2,BxPch; 10.K-K2,Q-N6; 11.N-K4 and wins.
- No. 45:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-QB3,N-KB3; 3.P-B4,PxP; 4.P-K5,Q-K2; 5.Q-K2, N-N1; 6.N-B3,P-Q3; 7.N-Q5,Q-Q2; 8.PxPd.ch,K-Q1; 9.PxPch and wins.
- No. 46:** 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.P-KB4,PxP; 3.N-KB3,P-KN4; 4.P-Q4,P-N5; 5.BxP, PxN; 6.QxP,Q-B3; 7.N-B3,N-K2; 8.N-N5,N-R3; 9.BxP,QxQ; 10.N-Q6 mate.
- No. 47:** 1.P-K4,P-QB4; 2.N-K2,N-QB3; 3.P-QB4,N-B3; 4.QN-B3,P-KN3; 5.P-Q4,PxP; 6.NxP,P-Q3; 7.P-B3,Q-N3; 8.B-K3,QxNP; 9.N-R4,Q-R6; 10.B-B1, Q-N5ch; 11.B-Q2,Q-R6; 12.N-N5 and wins.
- No. 48:** 1.P-K4,P-K3; 2.P-Q4,Q-B3; 3.P-K5,Q-B4?; 4.B-Q3, and wins.
- No. 49:** 1.P-K4,P-QB4; 2.N-KB3,P-K3; 3.P-Q4,PxP; 4.NxP, N-KB3; 5.N-QB3, B-N5; 6.P-K5,N-Q4; 7.Q-N4,P-KN3; 8.P-QR3,Q-R4?; 9.PxB,QxR; 10.N-N3 and wins.
- No. 50:** 1.P-K4,P-QB4; 2.P-QB3,P-Q4; 3.P-K5,B-B4; 4.P-Q4,PxP; 5.PxP, BxN?; 6.RxB,Q-R4ch; 7.B-Q2,QxRP; 8.B-B3 and wins as R-R1 is threatened.

