

Learning Chess: Your Guide to the Royal Game

Chess is an exciting strategy game that has been played for hundreds of years! Let's learn how to play this amazing game together.

The Chess Board



The Chess Pieces

Each player starts with 16 pieces:

- 1 King: The most important piece - protect it!
- 1 Queen: The most powerful piece
- 2 Rooks: Move in straight lines
- 2 Bishops: Move diagonally
- 2 Knights: Move in L-shapes
- 8 Pawns: Your front-line pieces

How Pieces Move

1. **King:** Moves one square in any direction
2. **Queen:** Moves any number of squares horizontally, vertically, or diagonally
3. **Rook:** Moves any number of squares horizontally or vertically

4. **Bishop:** Moves any number of squares diagonally
5. **Knight:** Moves in an L-shape (two squares in one direction, then one square perpendicular)
6. **Pawn:** Moves forward one square at a time (can move two squares on its first move)

Basic Rules

7. White always moves first
8. Players take turns moving one piece at a time
9. You can't move through your own pieces
10. You can capture opponent's pieces by moving onto their square
11. The game ends when one player checkmates the other's king

Special Moves

- **Castling:** A special king and rook move for protection
- **En Passant:** A special pawn capture
- **Pawn Promotion:** When a pawn reaches the opposite end of the board

How to Win The goal is to checkmate your opponent's king. This means:

12. The king is under attack (in check)
13. There's no legal move to escape the attack

Beginning Tips

14. Control the center of the board
15. Protect your king
16. Develop your pieces early
17. Think before you move
18. Have fun learning!

Practice Activities

19. Set up the board correctly
20. Practice moving each piece legally
21. Try to identify check positions
22. Play friendly games with classmates

Remember: Chess takes time to master. Don't get discouraged if you make mistakes - they help you learn!