



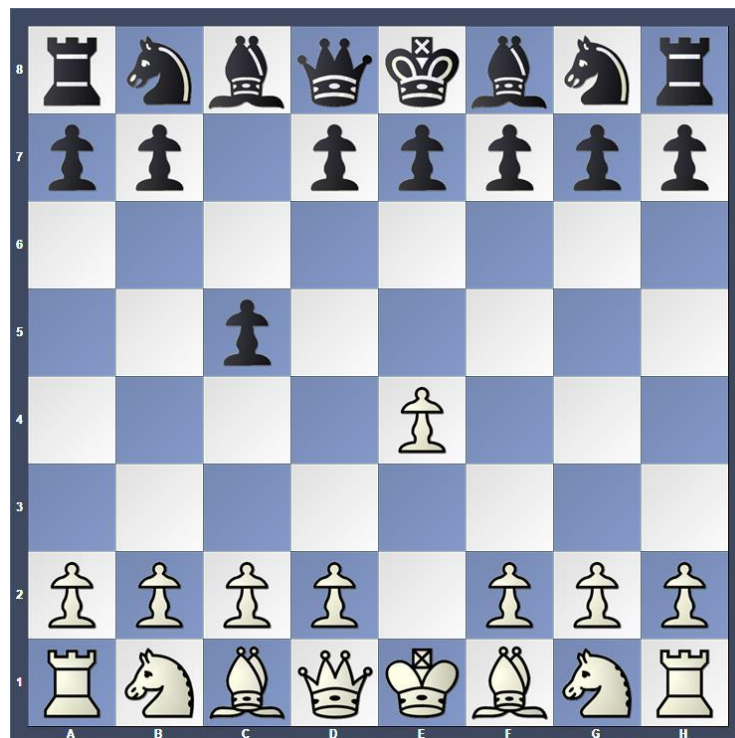
The Sicilian Defense

The Sicilian Defense is the most popular defense against white's opening 1.e4 and is used extensively at top level play. It is a very aggressive defense and immediately stakes claim at the center, denying white the double pawns on e4 and d4. Many chess champions actually prefer to start with 1.d4 because of how well the Sicilian Defense plays against 1.e4.

Eventually the c-pawn of black is usually exchanged, opening the semi-open c file for black to bring his queen or rook to and add pressure to the queen side attack.

White not only has to worry about black's defense but also the counter attack that the Sicilian Defense presents. White tends to have the advantage on the king side while black will usually look to attack on the queen side.

For those chess players that play against the 1.e4 opening quite often, the Sicilian Defense is an opening that you should spend quite a bit of time studying. There are many variations and they each are designed for specific types of players.



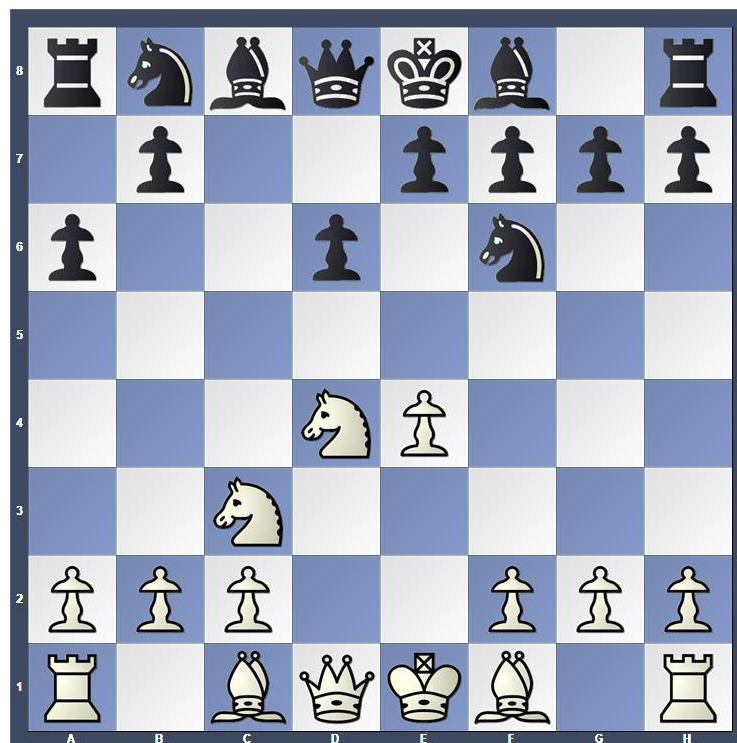


For example, Simth-Morra gambit, Alapin variation, closed Sicilian, classical variation, Sveshnikov variation, dragon variation, accelerated dragon, Najdorf variation, etc. In this lesson, we will talk about the Najdorf Variation.

The Najdorf Variation in the Sicilian Defense is the most popular line and has been favorited by some of the greatest chess minds that have ever played the game. It is aggressive and yet positional at times. It truly has something for every type of player and is important for every chess player to learn and study.

Black plays an innocent looking move with 5...a6, however this is far from innocent. Black defends the very powerful b4 square, restricting the play of the two knights and the light squared bishop. This also allows for a b5 push from black, starting the attack on the queen side.

White has many different ways to respond to the Najdorf and over the years new ideas and lines have come about that have changed the way players respond to the Najdorf Variation.

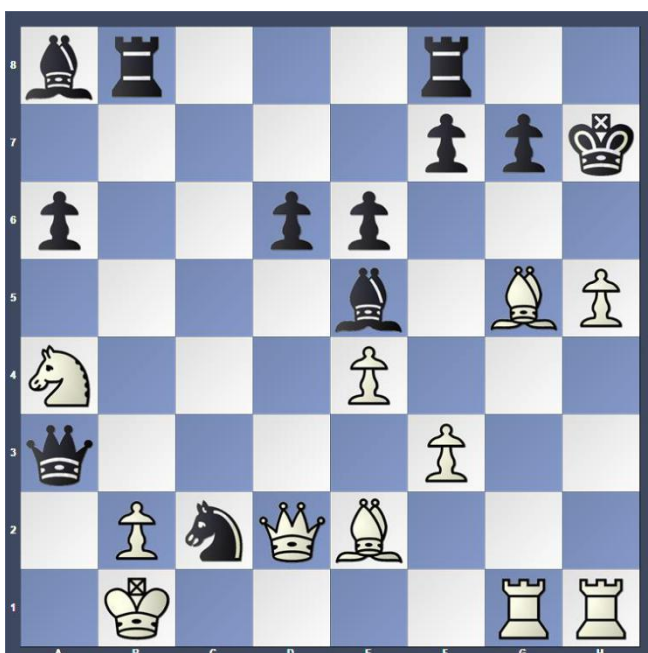


By now, white usually has Be3, Bg5, Be2, and Bc4 options.



Game 1: Michael Adams vs Garry Kasparov (2005)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.Be2
Qc7 8.Qd2 b5 9.a3 Bb7 10.f3 Nc6 11.O-O-O b4 12.axb4 Nxb4 13.g4
Be7 14.g5 Nd7 15.h4 Nc5 16.Kb1 Rb8 17.h5 O-O 18.g6 Bf6 19.Rdg1
Ba8 20.Bg5 Be5 21.gxh7+ Kxh7 22.Nb3 Nxc2 23.Nxc5 Na3+ 24.Ka2
Qxc5 25.Na4 Nc2 26.Kb1 Qa3 0-1



If white Qxc2, Rfc8,
Qd2, Qxa4, followed
by Rxb2, so white
resigned.