



How to play Chess

Chessboard and Pieces

1. **Chessboard:** An 8x8 grid with alternating light and dark squares.
2. **Setup:** Each player has 16 pieces:

- 1 King
- 1 Queen
- 2 Rooks
- 2 Knights
- 2 Bishops
- 8 Pawns

Set up pieces like this (left to right):

- First row (for White): Rook, Knight, Bishop, Queen, King, Bishop, Knight, Rook.
- Second row: All Pawns.
- Black pieces mirror this on the opposite side.

Objective

- The goal is to checkmate the opponent's King, meaning it's under attack and cannot escape.

How the Pieces Move

3. **King:** Moves one square in any direction.
4. **Queen:** Moves any number of squares in any direction.
5. **Rook:** Moves any number of squares horizontally or vertically.
6. **Bishop:** Moves any number of squares diagonally.
7. **Knight:** Moves in an "L" shape: two squares in one direction, then one square perpendicular. Can jump over pieces.
8. **Pawn:** Moves forward one square, but captures diagonally. On its first move, it can move forward two squares.

Special Moves

9. **Castling:** Move the King two squares towards a Rook, and the Rook to the square next to the King. Conditions: Neither piece has moved before, no pieces between them, and the King is not in check.
10. **En Passant:** If a pawn moves two squares forward and lands next to an opponent's pawn, the opponent's pawn can capture it as if it moved one square.
11. **Promotion:** If a pawn reaches the other side of the board, it can become any piece (except a King), usually a Queen.

Basic Rules

12. **Turns:** Players take turns moving one piece at a time. White moves first.
13. **Check:** When a King is attacked, it is in "check." You must move to get out of check.
14. **Checkmate:** If the King is in check and cannot escape, it's "checkmate" and the game is over.
15. **Stalemate:** If a player has no legal moves but is not in check, it's a draw.

Simple Strategy Tips

16. **Control the Center:** Try to move your pieces to the center of the board.
17. **Develop Your Pieces:** Move your Knights and Bishops out early.
18. **Protect Your King:** Consider castling to keep your King safe.
19. **Think Ahead:** Always plan your moves and consider what your opponent might do next.

Enjoy your game! If you have any questions, just ask.