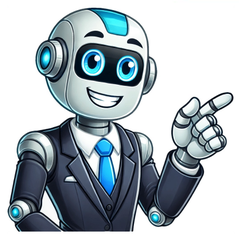
I'm not a robot



Checks are potent threats in chess. Can you imagine what would happen if you could combine their power with a surprise attack on another piece? Enter the discovered check, a tactic that can end a game in an instant. Here is what you need to know about the discovered check: What Is The Discovered Check In Chess? A discovered check happens when a piece moves out of the way to uncover a check given by another piece. The white knight gets out of the rook's way, putting the king in check. The discovered check is a kind of discovered attack. It is usually more powerful than a regular discovered attack because it is a forcing move that requires the other player to react. Why Is The Discovered Check Important? The discovered check can be a crushing tactic because it can catch your opponent off guard. In addition, it forces the other player to respond to the check, giving you enough time to do severe damage. In this game, the great GM Viktor Korchnoi demonstrated just how devastating a discovered check can be. Playing with the white pieces, Korchnoi faced this position on the board: Can you see a way for White to use the discovered check to win material? Korchnoi played a demolishing queen sacrifice, only possible because of his dangerous passed pawn and discovered check. After White promoted his pawn, Black soon resigned since he was about to lose his queen after getting out of check. Korchnoi sacrifices a queen to be able to deliver a discovered check and finish the combination a queen up. As you can see, a well-applied discovered check can give a player a decisive edge. Knowing how to apply it and protect yourself from it is crucial for every chess player who wants to improve their game. Test Your Skills Now that you have learned everything about the discovered check, it is time to put your skills to the test. Try to solve the puzzles below by using the power of the discovered check. Puzzle 1: In this game, GM Hikaru Nakamura used the discovered check tactic to win material against IM Justin Sarkar. Can you see Nakamura's idea? Puzzle 2: In this odds game played by the genius Paul Morphy against Aureliano Medina in 1862, Medina resigned after the game reached this position. Can you show why Black gave up? Puzzle 3: In this game, Adolf Anderssen sacrificed a queen playing against Berthold Suhle to get to this position. Can you see how Anderssen used the discovered check to win the game? You now know what a discovered check is and how you can use it to gain an advantage in your games. Head over to our Lessons page and learn about other tactics that you can use to crush your opponents! A Discovered Attack in Chess is a specific way to create two threats in one move: this is in fact another type of Double Attack, like the Fork in Chess. What Is A Discovered Attack A discovered attack is an attack revealed when one piece moves out of the way of another, and it is a very powerful tactic as well. The Knight has uncovered the Rook: in the final position, the black King is in check. As the black King was able to escape easily, it seems that this was not that dangerous, right ? I agree with you that in the previous position, the discovered check was indeed not deadly. But imagine if the moving piece is creating a threat as well. Now I am going to show you a few positions featuring a discovered attack. Try to solve them ! The next one is a classic from the French defense. The previous discovered attack is common in some lines of the French defense, when Black captures d4 a bit too quickly ! The discovered attack does not often appears out of the blue. More often that not, a preparatory move is needed to set up the stage ! Discovered attacks have been played in many top level games. They are arguably harder to see, but this makes them even more interesting to study ! In the first example, Kasparov plays his first move to create the right conditions. The double Check is a particular example of discovered attack. I already discuss it in my lesson about Checkmate for beginners. If it was only that, the double check would not be particularly dangerous. The thing is that, to defend agains the check, the defending side can only move the King, even if one or even two pieces are attacked. This particularity of the double check allows some beautiful checkmates, one being the smothered mate. This particular combination featuring a double check and a smothered mate is not totally uncommon: you may be able to play it on your own games. Stay aware ! Finally, some combinations featuring a double check belong to the most famous beauty prizes, like the following example. Discovered attacks are a powerful weapon. You can set your pieces to maximize your chances to make discovered attacks arise: put your Rooks on open filesput your Bishops on good diagonals Then, opportunities of discovered attacks will appear by themselves, created naturally by moving your pieces to the right squares. Of course, discovered attacks are often combined with other tactical patterns in real games, Skewers and Pins share some common characteristics for instance ! Because we like you By now, you are probably aware of how the Queen, the Rook and the Bishop move, maybe you already master the mighty Knight’s move. The pawn is a very important piece in Chess, shaping what a given game will be like. Discover here how… The idea of removing the defender in Chess is simple: an important piece or square is defended by a piece, the defender. Removing the defender gives you the ability to take the important piece or occupy the important square. There are few ideas that are simpler than this: one enemy… Discovered check is a chess term that refers to a type of check. Discovered check occurs when a player moves a piece, revealing an attacking piece behind it that gives check. For example, a white knight is located between the black king and a white rook on the same rank. If the white knight were to move, the black king would then be in check by the white rook. If the knight also gives check to the black king, this would result in a special case of discovered check known as a double check. Bd5+ would win a queen. Chess, the ancient game of kings, has captivated minds for centuries with its intricate strategies and tactical maneuvers. Within this ... Checks are potent threats in chess. Can you imagine what would happen if you could combine their power with a surprise attack on another piece? Enter the discovered check, a tactic that can end a game in an instant. Here is what you need to know about the discovered check: What Is The Discovered Check In Chess? A discovered check happens when a piece moves out of the way to uncover a check given by another piece. The white knight gets out of the rook's way, putting the king in check. The discovered check is a kind of discovered attack. It is usually more powerful than a regular discovered attack because it is a forcing move that requires the other player to react. Why Is The Discovered Check Important? The discovered check can be a crushing tactic because it can catch your opponent off guard. In addition, it forces the other player to respond to the check, giving you enough time to do severe damage. In this game, the great GM Viktor Korchnoi demonstrated just how devastating a discovered check can be. Playing with the white pieces, Korchnoi faced this position on the board: Can you see a way for White to use the discovered check to win material? Korchnoi played a demolishing queen sacrifice, only possible because of his dangerous passed pawn and discovered check. After White promoted his pawn, Black soon resigned since he was about to lose his queen after getting out of check. Korchnoi sacrifices a queen to be able to deliver a discovered check and finish the combination a queen up. As you can see, a well-applied discovered check can give a player a decisive edge. Knowing how to apply it and protect yourself from it is crucial for every chess player who wants to improve their game. Test Your Skills Now that you have learned everything about the discovered check, it is time to put your skills to the test. Try to solve the puzzles below by using the power of the discovered check. Puzzle 1: In this game, GM Hikaru Nakamura used the discovered check tactic to win material against IM Justin Sarkar. Can you see Nakamura's idea? Puzzle 2: In this odds game played by the genius Paul Morphy against Aureliano Medina in 1862, Medina resigned after the game reached this position. Can you show why Black gave up? Puzzle 3: In this game, Adolf Anderssen sacrificed a queen playing against Berthold Suhle to get to this position. Can you see how Anderssen used the discovered check to win the game? You now know what a discovered check is and how you can use it to gain an advantage in your games. Head over to our Lessons page and learn about other tactics that you can use to crush your opponents! In Chess, a discovered attack is when one piece is moved and there is another piece behind the piece that was moved on the same rank or file that is now attacking an opponents piece by default. These attacks can make for powerful double attack if the piece moving is also moving to attack another piece. The piece moving is attacking a piece and the piece that was “discovered” behind the piece is now attacking a piece. When the discovered attack is against the enemy King, this is known as a discovered check. ExamplesExample #1Example #2Example #3 Examples Example #1 This is a game I recently had on Chess.com. I was losing, I was down material, but the discovered check I was able to pull off won the game for me. Example #2 In the position below, White can deliver a discovered attack and a discovered check by moving the Bishop on e4. This will reveal the Rook on e1 putting the King in check. If the Bishop moves to xyz for example, it will be a double attack. Example #3 Discovered attacks can also target specific squares, not just pieces. In the position below, do you see a square that White could target with a discovered attack? That’s the power of the discovered attack. They are also more difficult to see for beginner players since it’s hard enough just to see all of the threats coming directly from pieces in front of the other pieces facing their pieces. Discovered attacks can create skewers as we just saw, they can also create pins and forks. These attacks will take longer for beginners to become skilled in deploying and defending against. I hope this guide on the Discovered Attack helped you. if you liked this post, you may want to learn other Chess Tactics like the Zugzwang and Interfering. Checks are potent threats in chess. Can you imagine what would happen if you could combine their power with a surprise attack on another piece? Enter the discovered check, a tactic that can end a game in an instant. Here is what you need to know about the discovered check: What Is The Discovered Check In Chess? A discovered check happens when a piece moves out of the way to uncover a check given by another piece. The white knight gets out of the rook's way, putting the king in check. The discovered check is a kind of discovered attack. It is usually more powerful than a regular discovered attack because it is a forcing move that requires the other player to react. Why Is The Discovered Check Important? The discovered check can be a crushing tactic because it can catch your opponent off guard. In addition, it forces the other player to respond to the check, giving you enough time to do severe damage. In this game, the great GM Viktor Korchnoi demonstrated just how devastating a discovered check can be. Playing with the white pieces, Korchnoi faced this position on the board: Can you see a way for White to use the discovered check to win material? Korchnoi played a demolishing queen sacrifice, only possible because of his dangerous passed pawn and discovered check. After White promoted his pawn, Black soon resigned since he was about to lose his queen after getting out of check. Korchnoi sacrifices a queen to be able to deliver a discovered check and finish the combination a queen up. As you can see, a well-applied discovered check can give a player a decisive edge. Knowing how to apply it and protect yourself from it is crucial for every chess player who wants to improve their game. Test Your Skills Now that you have learned everything about the discovered check, it is time to put your skills to the test. Try to solve the puzzles below by using the power of the discovered check. Puzzle 1: In this game, GM Hikaru Nakamura used the discovered check tactic to win material against IM Justin Sarkar. Can you see Nakamura's idea? Puzzle 2: In this odds game played by the genius Paul Morphy against Aureliano Medina in 1862, Medina resigned after the game reached this position. Can you show why Black gave up? Puzzle 3: In this game, Adolf Anderssen sacrificed a queen playing against Berthold Suhle to get to this position. Can you see how Anderssen used the discovered check to win the game? You now know what a discovered check is and how you can use it to gain an advantage in your games. Head over to our Lessons page and learn about other tactics that you can use to crush your opponents! A discovered check is a move by one piece that reveals an check by another piece. The following diagram illustrates discovered checks. A white rook points on the open e-file toward the black king. White's bishop on e4 is preventing the check. If the bishop moves, it discovers a check by the rook: The bishop has a "free" move, because Black has to deal with the rook check first and can't immediately react to the bishop's discovering move. A discovered check can be especially strong if the discovering move is a forcing move, for example a capture, or an attack. In that case, the opponent often cant recaptur, or defend the attack piece and defend against the discovered check at the same time. Let's look at the possible discovered checks by White in this diagram: 1.Bd3+? and 1.Bd5+? don't use the free bishop move effectively, as the bishop does not capture or threaten anything. Black can defend against the check with, for example, 1...Be7. 1.Bxg6+ uses the free move to capture the knight. White wins the knight, because Black can't recapture and defend against the check at the same time. 1.Bf5+ uses the free move to attack the queen. Black must defend against the check and can't save the queen. 1.Bxb7+ captures a pawn, attacks the queen and the rook, and gives check. Black again can't defend against all of those threats The best move is actually 1.Bc6+! The bishop gives check and discovers a check from the rook, so the king is in check from two directions at once! This is called a double check. Double checks can't be blocked, and the king is forced to move: 1...Kd8 2.Re8# is opera mate. Examples Black can win with the discovered check 1...Bc3+. The rook on e8 gives check, and the bishop on c3 attacks the rook on b4. White is unable to defend against both threats with one move. Note that 2.Re4 doesn't defend against both threats here, as the rook is unprotected on e4. Because your opponent has to deal with the check first, the discovering piece gets a free move, and can move to an otherwise inaccessible protected square, as in the following example: White can win with the discovered check 1.Na7+. The queen on b5 gives check, and the knight on a7 attacks Black's queen. Black cannot defend against both threats at the same time. 1...Rxa7 is an illegal move as it would leave the king in check. 1...Qc6 doesn't help as the queen is insufficiently protected on c6. How to spot a discovered check You can compare a discovered check with a fork where you attack a piece and give a check. For this kind of fork, one piece attacks and checks. With a discovered check, one piece attacks, and another piece gives check. Whenever a possible check is blocked by one of your own pieces, think about ways to move that piece and make a discovered check. Your opponent will have to deal with the discovered check first. You get a free move with the discovering piece, and can consider possible sacrifices. With some practice, you will be able to spot blocked checks quickly and grab your chance if a discovered check is possible! Related motifs A discovered attack is a move by one piece that reveals an attack by another piece. Sign in to edit Discovered check winning a Bishop a b c d e f g h 8 8 7 7 6 6 5 b5 n~ 5 4 4 3 c3 ~~ 3 2 2 1 1 a b c d e f g h A discovered attack on the white queen with a tactical fork threat (Nxf2+) a b c d e f g h 8 8 7 7 6 6 5 5 4 4 3 3 2 2 1 1 a b c d e f g h White has a discovered attack with a capture: 1.Nxd2 Nxd2 2.Bxe2 wins material. a b c d e f g h 8 8 7 7 6 d6 N~ 6 5 5 4 e4 ~~ 4 3 3 2 2 1 1 a b c d e f g h Discovered attack threatening mate with Qxh2#, winning the black queen. In chess, a discovered attack is a move which reveals a threat to an opponent's piece when another piece is moved out of the threat's path. When the discovered attack is a check, the move is called, naturally, a discovered check. These tactics can be very effective, particularly if the piece being moved out of the way poses a separate threat, as well. This sometimes results in a fork-like situation where the player being threatened will inevitably lose material. Discovered attacks can cause check or capture with either piece (i.e. the piece being moved and the piece being revealed). These are the different names given for such types of discovered attacks (most are rather blunt titles): Discovered attack with check- The revealed piece threatens the opponent, while the moved piece causes check. The double attack often wins material for the executor. Double check- Both the piece being moved away and the piece being revealed give check. This means that both the pieces which are giving check cannot be captured, because the other piece would still check the king. The king is forced to move. Discovered attack with capture- A discovered attack in which the piece being moved captures another piece. These are extremely effective because they allow the moved piece to take another piece even if it is protected, as the opponent is preoccupied by their piece being threatened. Discovered check with capture- Same as previous discovered attack with capture, but the revealed piece gives check. These are generally more effective than the latter, because the other player must focus on the new threat rather than decide if they should take the moved piece or not. Discovered attack with mate threat- The piece being moved, rather than capturing or directly threatening another piece, moves to a square where it threatens to inflict checkmate on the next move. Discovered attack with tactical threat - The moving piece threatens a , such as a Fork or a Skewer, and the revealing piece attacks a piece. These are the basic variations, though others can be made that are combinations of two or more, such as discovered attack with capture and mate threat, or discovered double check with capture (though they are a bit wordy). Defensive Strategy[] The strategy to revoke a discovered attack is similar to a fork's. More chess? ChessBaseshop Discovered check is as treacherous as a free kick trick in football. One player runs forward but a second one shoots. In a discovered check one piece moves and in doing so opens up a line towards the opposing king for a bishop, a rook or the queen. The danger of the discovered check lies in the fact that the opponent must react to the check and cannot at the same time parry a threat made by the piece which has just moved. The king and the opposing rook are opposite each other on an open file. That is the tinder to spark off dangerous tactics and a scenario for discovered checks. In this position there is only the white knight on e5 between the rook and the king. If it moves, the rook on e1 will be giving check. Sp White must move the knight in such a way as to give him the best possible chance of winning. There are two possibilities: take the pawn on c6 - Black cannot recapture attack the rook on h8 - Black cannot parry this threat Both moves are good but winning the rook on h8 is an immediate win. Here the discovered check is with bishop and rook. White has two discovered checks - on f5 and c6. On c6 it would even be a double check, but that only wins a pawn. The winning move is bishop e4-f5 which attacks and wins the queen on c8. An amusing and not so infrequent trick in chess is the Zwickmühle (double windmill or catch-22 situation). The attacking side keeps on repeating the same discovered check while each time taking another piece as he moves away. Because everything is done with check the defending side is completely helpless. In this position Black has five more pawns, but he is completely and helplessly lost. When in a discovered check the piece which moves itself gives check, that is a double check. A double check often decides the game. Normally the king has three possible reactions to a check: move away take the attacking piece interpose one of its own pieces But with the double check two pieces are attacking the king so that the only way for the king to escape is to move away. Here White has a double check which leads to mate on h7. Here a bishop and rook give a double check and at the same time threaten mate. The king must move away and the threat of mate cannot be parried. This mating pattern forms the conclusion of many well-known sacrificial combinations. A doube check can only be warded off by the king moving away. But if the king does not have any free squares left it is mated. Black attacks the knight on e4 with the d-pawn. A mistake. White wanted to move it anyway.... Move directly on the board to input a solution. Either click first on the start square and then on the target square. Or click on the piece, hold on to it, move it tot he target square and let go of it. The button ‘Left arrow’ takes back the move. Help Start again Discovered check is a nasty tactical trick. One piece moves so that another one can give check. The piece which moves can create all sorts of mischief. Checks are potent threats in chess. Can you imagine what would happen if you could combine their power with a surprise attack on another piece? Enter the discovered check, a tactic that can end a game in an instant. Here is what you need to know about the discovered check: What Is The Discovered Check In Chess? A discovered check happens when a piece moves out of the way to uncover a check given by another piece. The white knight gets out of the rook's way, putting the king in check. The discovered check is a kind of discovered attack. It is usually more powerful than a regular discovered attack because it is a forcing move that requires the other player to react. Why Is The Discovered Check Important? The discovered check can be a crushing tactic because it can catch your opponent off guard. In addition, it forces the other player to respond to the check, giving you enough time to do severe damage. In this game, the great GM Viktor Korchnoi demonstrated just how devastating a discovered check can be. Playing with the white pieces, Korchnoi faced this position on the board: Can you see a way for White to use the discovered check to win material? Korchnoi played a demolishing queen sacrifice, only possible because of his dangerous passed pawn and discovered check. After White promoted his pawn, Black soon resigned since he was about to lose his queen after getting out of check. Korchnoi sacrifices a queen to be able to deliver a discovered check and finish the combination a queen up. As you can see, a well-applied discovered check can give a player a decisive edge. Knowing how to apply it and protect yourself from it is crucial for every chess player who wants to improve their game. Test Your Skills Now that you have learned everything about the discovered check, it is time to put your skills to the test. Try to solve the puzzles below by using the power of the discovered check. Puzzle 1: In this game, GM Hikaru Nakamura used the discovered check tactic to win material against IM Justin Sarkar. Can you see Nakamura's idea? Puzzle 2: In this odds game played by the genius Paul Morphy against Aureliano Medina in 1862, Medina resigned after the game reached this position. Can you show why Black gave up? Puzzle 3: In this game, Adolf Anderssen sacrificed a queen playing against Berthold Suhle to get to this position. Can you see how Anderssen used the discovered check to win the game? You now know what a discovered check is and how you can use it to gain an advantage in your games. Head over to our Lessons page and learn about other tactics that you can use to crush your opponents! View source Welcome to the Chess Wiki The wiki about the legendary game of Chess! Chess is a strategy board game played by two people. Chess is played on a chessboard with 64 squares (eight-by-eight grid). Each player gets 16 pieces which all have different movement abilities within the game: one king, one queen, two bishops, two knights and eight pawns. The objective of the game is to checkmate your opponents king, which happens when the king is under attack (check) and there is no way to escape it. Chess today is a recognized sport of the International Olympic Committee and of course it's our favorite game. The intellectual aspect of chess diverts many strategists and mathematicians to the game. The Chess Wiki was started on January 10th 2006 and is a definitive communal resource dedicated to providing information about the legendary game of Chess. Skip to main content Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Bd2+ (Example: moving the bishops allows the rook to give a check. Once the enemy king moves out of the way, the white rook can take the enemy queen).Bb5+ (Once black addresses the check, the white queen can capture the enemy queen).Nf5+ or Ng4+ (There are 2 solutions!)Bxh7+ (the bishop sacrifices itself to take the pawn on h7; once the enemy king takes the bishop, the your queen can capture the enemy queen). Chess direct attack revealed when one piece moves out of the way of another This article includes a list of general references, but it lacks sufficient corresponding inline citations. Please help to improve this article by introducing more precise citations. (February 2010) (Learn how and when to remove this message) abcdefgh8877665544332211abcdefghFrom this position, 1.Bf3+ is a winning discovered check that skewers the black king and queen. In chess, a discovered attack is a direct attack revealed when one piece moves out of the way of another.[1] Discovered attacks can be extremely powerful, as the piece moved can make a threat independently of the piece it reveals. Like many chess tactics, they often succeed because the opponent would be unable to meet two threats at once unless one of the attacked pieces can simultaneously move away from its own attack and capture the other attacking piece. While typically the consequence of a discovered attack is the gain of material, they do not have to do this to be effective; the tactic can be used merely to gain a tempo.[2] If the discovered attack is a check, it is called a discovered check. This article uses algebraic notation to describe chess moves. abcdefgh8877665544332211abcdefgh The move 1.Nc7+, besides forking both rooks with the knight, also reveals an attack on Black's queen and a check. abcdefgh8877665544332211abcdefgh Position after 1...g7–g5. An en passant capture can reveal two checks at once. When the moving piece gives check to the opponent's king, the maneuver is often described as a discovered attack with check. When the discovered attack is itself a check, it is called a discovered check. If both pieces give check, a double check results. Discovered attacks—especially checks—can win material when the moving piece captures an opposing piece nominally protected by another opposing piece. If the opponent deals with the discovered attack (obligatory if it is a check), the attacking player will have time to return the moving piece out of harm's way. This scenario is often referred to as a discovered attack (or check) with capture. A discovered check can also win material if the moving piece ends up attacking another undefended piece. In this case, it would be impossible for the opponent first to capture the moving piece unless the king can capture. When the moving piece moves to a square from which it threatens to inflict checkmate on the next move, the tactic is called a discovered attack with mate threat. A discovered checkmate itself is also possible. Less often, a move may discover multiple attacks, as in the first diagram where the knight's departure opens two crisscrossing diagonals. And in exceptional circumstances, it is even possible for two checks to be revealed simultaneously. The only way for this to happen in orthodox chess is by way of an en passant capture. In the position shown in the second diagram, Black has just played 1...g7–g5. White replies 2.hxg6e.p.++. The result is a double check: One check is given by the rook, discovered by the capturing pawn's move; the other by the bishop, created by the captured pawn's removal. (The bishop’s check is not a discovered check, as the black pawn is captured and not moved.) Such a check is extremely rare in practical play, but it is sometimes found in problems. abcdefgh8877665544332211abcdefgh Position after 8...Qxd4. White wins Black's queen with 9.Bb5+ (a discovered attack with check). The diagram illustrates a trap in the Advance Variation of the French Defence, based on a discovered attack. If, after 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4, Black mistakenly attempts to win White's d-pawn with 7...Nxd4?? 8.Nxd4 Qxd4 (diagram), White can play 9.Bb5+, a discovered attack (White's bishop gets out of the way of White's queen) against Black's queen with check. Black must get out of check, then White can follow up with 10.Qxd4. ^ Discovered Attack Article at Chesscorner.com ^ More detailed tutorial at MarkLowery.net [dead link] Farnsworth, Ward. "Ward Farnworth's Predator at the Chessboard". Web Document. A Field Guide to Chess Tactics. Retrieved 17 December 2013. Polgar, Susan; Truong, Paul (2006). "4. Discoveries". Chess Tactics for Champions. Random House. ISBN 978-0-8129-3671-1. Yusupov, Artur (2008). "7 The discovered attack". Build Up Your Chess with Artur Yusupov The Fundamentals 1. Quality Chess. ISBN 978-1-906552-01-5. Chess Tactics Repository – Discovered Attacks – Collection of chess problems involving discovered attacks Retrieved from " Checks are potent threats in chess. Can you imagine what would happen if you could combine their power with a surprise attack on another piece? Enter the discovered check, a tactic that can end a game in an instant. Here is what you need to know about the discovered check: What Is The Discovered Check In Chess? A discovered check happens when a piece moves out of the way to uncover a check given by another piece. The white knight gets out of the rook's way, putting the king in check. The discovered check is a kind of discovered attack. It is usually more powerful than a regular discovered attack because it is a forcing move that requires the other player to react. Why Is The Discovered Check Important? The discovered check can be a crushing tactic because it can catch your opponent off guard. In addition, it forces the other player to respond to the check, giving you enough time to do severe damage. In this game, the great GM Viktor Korchnoi demonstrated just how devastating a discovered check can be. Playing with the white pieces, Korchnoi faced this position on the board: Can you see a way for White to use the discovered check to win material? Korchnoi played a demolishing queen sacrifice, only possible because of his dangerous passed pawn and discovered check. After White promoted his pawn, Black soon resigned since he was about to lose his queen after getting out of check. Korchnoi sacrifices a queen to be able to deliver a discovered check and finish the combination a queen up. As you can see, a well-applied discovered check can give a player a decisive edge. Knowing how to apply it and protect yourself from it is crucial for every chess player who wants to improve their game. Test Your Skills Now that you have learned everything about the discovered check, it is time to put your skills to the test. Try to solve the puzzles below by using the power of the discovered check. Puzzle 1: In this game, GM Hikaru Nakamura used the discovered check tactic to win material against IM Justin Sarkar. Can you see Nakamura's idea? Puzzle 2: In this odds game played by the genius Paul Morphy against Aureliano Medina in 1862, Medina resigned after the game reached this position. Can you show why Black gave up? Puzzle 3: In this game, Adolf Anderssen sacrificed a queen playing against Berthold Suhle to get to this position. Can you see how Anderssen used the discovered check to win the game? You now know what a discovered check is and how you can use it to gain an advantage in your games. Head over to our Lessons page and learn about other tactics that you can use to crush your opponents! Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Discovered checks are among the most powerful tactical weapons in chess. At chesspuzzles.io, we've created this comprehensive guide to help you understand, identify, and execute discovered checks effectively. We'll explore the mechanics of this tactic, provide examples from famous games, and offer puzzles to enhance your skills in employing this devastating maneuver. What is a Discovered Check? A discovered check is a special type of discovered attack where moving one piece reveals a check from another piece behind it. Key features include: Two of your pieces are aligned on the same rank, file, or diagonal with the enemy king The front piece moves, "discovering" a check from the rear piece The moving piece is free to make any legal move, often creating a second threat Discovered checks are powerful because they: Force the opponent to deal with the check immediately Allow the moving piece to make a strong move or capture with impunity Often lead to significant material gain or checkmate Anatomy of a Discovered Check The Rear Piece: The piece that will deliver the check once revealed The Front Piece: The piece that moves to reveal the check The Enemy King: The target of the discovered check The Flight Square: Where the front piece moves to (often creating a second threat) Types of Discovered Checks Simple Discovered Check The front piece moves, revealing a check from the rear piece Double Check Both the moved piece and the discovered piece give check Discovered Check with Capture The moving piece captures an enemy piece while revealing a check Discovered Check with Promotion A pawn promotes while revealing a check Discovered Check with Mate Threat The moving piece creates a mating threat while revealing a check Setting Up Discovered Checks To create opportunities for discovered checks: Look for alignments of your pieces with the enemy king Position your pieces so that moving one reveals a check from another Consider how the moving piece can create an additional threat Be aware of potential discovered checks throughout the game Use pawn moves to create alignments for discovered checks Famous Games Featuring Discovered Checks Lasker vs. Thomas, London 1912 (The famous queen sacrifice) Fischer vs. Benko, US Championship 1963-64 (Discovered check in the endgame) Kasparov vs. Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 1999 (Complex discovered check sequence) Tactical Motifs Associated with Discovered Checks Discovered checks often work in conjunction with other tactical themes: Fork The moving piece creates a fork while revealing a check Pin The discovered check creates or exploits a pin Skewer The discovered check forces the king to move, exposing a more valuable piece Clearance The front piece clears a line for the rear piece to deliver check Zwischenzug (In-between move) The discovered check serves as a powerful in-between move Defending Against Discovered Checks To avoid falling victim to discovered checks: Be aware of your opponent's piece alignments with your king Look for potential discovered checks in every position Consider prophylactic moves to prevent discovered check setups When faced with a discovered check, look for defensive resources like interposition or counterattacks In critical positions, calculate all possible discovered checks Discovered Checks in Different Game Phases Opening Rare, but can occur in some tactical opening variations Often result from careless development or king movement Middlegame Most common phase for discovered checks Often arise from complex tactical positions Endgame Can be decisive, especially in positions with few pieces Often used to create mating threats or win material Common Mistakes When Using Discovered Checks Focusing only on the check and missing a stronger move Telegraphing the intention, allowing the opponent to prepare Neglecting the defensive needs of your own position Overestimating the power of the discovered check Failing to calculate the full consequences of the discovered check Practice Discovered Check Puzzles Improve your skills with our collection of Discovered Check puzzles on chesspuzzles.io: Try our Discovered Check Puzzles on chesspuzzles.io now Challenge yourself with these tactical puzzles designed to enhance your ability to spot and execute discovered checks in various positions. FAQs Q: Are discovered checks always winning moves? A: While discovered checks are powerful, they're not always winning. It's crucial to calculate the consequences carefully and consider your opponent's responses. Q: How can I improve my ability to spot discovered check opportunities? A: Regular practice with targeted puzzles, studying games featuring discovered checks, and analyzing your own games can significantly improve your pattern recognition for these tactics. Q: Can discovered checks be used defensively? A: While discovered checks are primarily offensive tactics, they can sometimes be used defensively by creating strong counterattacks or forcing the opponent to weaken their position. Master the art of discovered checks to add a devastating tactical weapon to your chess arsenal! Ready to test your skills? Try our Discovered Check Puzzles on chesspuzzles.io now and elevate your tactical prowess to new heights. A discovered attack is a dangerous tactic that you can use to surprise your opponent and win the game. Learn the basics of this mighty weapon and be ready for your next chess battle! What Is A Discovered Attack In Chess? A discovered attack happens when a player moves one piece out of the way to reveal a previously blocked attack by another piece. When the discovered attack results in a check, this is known as a discovered check. This move is even more effective than a regular discovered attack because it is more forcing. How To Take Advantage Of A Discovered Attack The discovered attack is often a deadly tactic because it can catch your opponent by surprise. There are many ways that you can employ a discovered attack to conquer a better position. One of the most common options is to use it as a way to create a double attack that cannot be defended by the other player. The bishop moves and attacks the rook on d8. At the same time, the now unblocked white rook attacks the queen on e6. Another way you can use this tactic is to capture a seemingly protected piece. Since you can uncover a crushing threat against your opponent, you can use the extra tempo you gain to bring your piece back to safety while the other player defends against the more serious threat. Even though the bishop on d5 is protected, Black has no time to recapture the white knight because their queen is threatened by the white rook. As mentioned, you can also use this tactic with a check to trick your opponent. The following example shows a trap in the well-known French Defense. The pawn on d4 seems to be hanging, but Black cannot capture it without losing a knight or even their queen! The bishop checks the black king, allowing White to capture Black's queen next. Finally, in this game played by GM Hikaru Nakamura against GM Alexander Shabalov, we can see another creative way of using discovered attacks. In it, Nakamura moves his knight out of his bishop's way to trap Shabalov's queen. Test Your Skills Now that you have learned what a discovered attack is, let's test your skills! Solve the puzzles below to get even better at identifying opportunities for devastating discovered attacks. Puzzle 1: It seems like White is losing this game since they are behind in material. Is there any way for White to change the course of this game? Puzzle 2: In this position, it looks like all of Black's pieces are protected. Can you think of any way to win material? Puzzle 3: Black just captured your pawn on d4 with a knight. Is that knight really protected by the queen, or can you win material in this position? Conclusion You now understand the basic concept behind a discovered attack. You can identify it, use it against your opponent, and even create traps with it! To get even better at exploiting this tactic, try our premium membership and practice solving discovered attack puzzles. In this article, I am going to give you the best video lesson on the Rossolimo you will find anywhere online ! I promise you are going to love it ! I will detail all the common lines, explaining them strategically with some nice quizzes to keep it interactive !... Read more... The Alapin Sicilian is a clever way to sidestep the huge work needed to start understanding something to the open sicilian, and it has its own share of traps too... I don’t know if this article will ever get more than one game ! Let’s see A nice double attack from White: ►► This content is for Standard, Plus,... In this page, you will find a selection of traps and miniatures arising from the Budapest gambit. Hopefully, this will give you some ideas to spice up your own games.... The French Defense is loved by players who enjoy dynamic play in asymmetrical structures, traps and tricks are frequent in this opening, as in many others. I hope you will... Thanks for being there ! This is a new format where I explain the Caro-Kann in video with some nice quizzes in between. All the main lines are covered here. I hope you'll enjoy this ! The MacCutcheon variation of the French Defense was played for the first time against the Steinitz by John McCutcheon in a simultaneous game. He defeated the world champion in what remains quite an upset. Let's discover the variation that defeated a World champion ! As... The Rubinstein variation of the French defense is very specific and does not feature the usual French defense pawn structure. This is typical of the French defense. This blocked center is featured in the following lines: The French Defense advance variationThe French Defense Winawer variationThe... The Burn variation is one of the most common lines of the French defense. It is commonly played at the top level and features some open play. Very often, the position will feature opposite castles, making the position sharper than usual. It is interesting to... The Ruy Lopez is an opening that withstood the test of time. It has been played by players of the highest levels of strength since the Renaissance. It is one... This article focuses on positions arising from the Ruy Lopez opening, after the Ruy Lopez exchange variation starting with Bxc6 dxc6. This variation does not arise from the Ruy Lopez... The Marshall attack belongs to the great family of positions arising from the Ruy Lopez opening, with a very specific strategy. But, let’s be honest, it is a one-of-a-kind opening... This article focuses on plans and ideas in central formations after white plays d4-d5 from the Ruy Lopez tense center. The closed center is one of the many pawn structures... Distant opposition is about extending the concept of standard opposition. Having the opposition in Chess means that it is your opponent's turn to play, and he therefore has to leave the square and let your King outflank him. Getting the opposition is a powerful way... A pawn race is a situation where both players try to promote their pawn before the other. Very often, the first who manages to promote his pawn into a Queen wins (but sometimes it is only a draw !). Situations where each side only has... Pawn breaks are powerful. They are so cool that I named this website after them. But what are pawn breaks and why are they so useful, especially in the Endgame ? Pawn Breaks: Definition And Basic Examples So, a pawn break is a pawn move... A remote passed pawn is one of the strongest assets you can get in a King and pawn endgame. Even if the situation elsewhere is balanced, this pawn is usually enough to secure a win. Even when the defending King is in the square of... Did you ever find yourself moving the same piece three times in the opening ? Or did you move your Queen early, only to let your opponent to harass it... This is the second article about opening principles for beginners. The first one was about controlling the center and this is of course really important. Now the next question arising... Here you are in your journey to become a strong Chess player. You know how pieces are moving. Also, you have already learnt many tactical patterns, (like the fork, the... In our We have spent a lot of time on tactical patterns, haven’t we ? This is necessary so that they become obvious to you. You have also already studied... 100% Free, without obligation You can unsubscribe anytime AND Chess Tactics means a sequence of mostly forced moves, where one side takes over some kind of an advantage over the other. This advantage can be materialistic, a pawn(s) or a piece(s), or just a positional improvement.There are several tactical motifs in chess such as the double attack, discovered attack, pin, fork, batterie, overloading, undermining, x-ray and so on.When we talk about tactics, we also have to talk about strategy because tactics is strongly related to strategy. Before you choose to play some tactical motif against your opponent, you have to outplay the opponent in a strategical view and then deliver it with some element of tactics.I like to drag the parallel with the boxing. In boxing, the boxer, first with a series of shots (combination), prepares the opponent for the last punch and then knock outs him.The tactic can be simple (for instance in 2 or 3 moves) or more complex, where the player has to calculate more than 5 or even 10 moves in advance. Let me show you the few most common tactical motifs in chess:Fork is where one piece attacks two or even more opponent’s pieces and gets the material advantage. Here you can often see the combination of attack on the king, queen, and the rooks.With the last move Nd5 – c7, White “forks“ the king, queen and rook and, after Black’s king moves somewhere, White’s knight will take Black’s queen and get winning material advantage.Suggested: Tactics help you think ahead to recognize patterns and calculate to see how these patterns can work in your games. Learn more from the article “Pattern recognition in chess – fork”.This is the tactic that doesn’t allow an opponent’s piece of higher value to move and, with this tactic, one side also gets winning material advantage in most of the situations. The piece that makes the most natural moves and “pins“ the opponent’s pieces is the bishop.With the last move, Be4 – c6, White “pins“ the queen and the king. Black can’t move the queen and, after any Black’s move, White will take the opponent’s queen with his bishop, and get winning material advantage.This is the tactic motif where one piece allows the other to take also an opponent’s piece of a higher value. Here in most situations, the rooks take the queens.With the last move, Bd2-f4, White removes his bishop, and now, makes the discovered check against the opponent’s king. After the king moves somewhere, White’s rook will take the black queen and get winning material advantage.Below, you can find these examples/tactics:To be able to use tactics and also to manage to defend yourself from it, you have to understand and know the tactical motifs. Here we speak about the most common ones like the pin, the fork, and the discovered check. The tactic is “always around the corner“ and, after every single move, try to find it or spot it, if your opponent has some potential to use it against you.Be aware that tactics comes often after a nice strategical plan. So, if you get the better position, look for the t