

Setting Up the Board

Chess

The orientation and the piece order, with the two mnemonics.

Two rules prevent every setup mistake.

1

Orient the board

A light square in the bottom-right corner for both players.

2

Rooks in the corners

a1, h1, a8, h8.

3

Knights beside them

b1, g1, b8, g8.

4

Bishops next

c1, f1, c8, f8.

5

Queen on her own colour

White queen on d1 (light), black queen on d8 (dark). King takes the last square.

MNEMONICS

'Light on the right' — board orientation

'Queen on her colour' — piece placement

Kings face each other on the e-file; queens face each other on the d-file. If they do not, the queens and kings are swapped.