

The Caro-Kann

Chess

1...c6, and why it solves the French's main problem.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 — solid, and structurally sounder than it first appears.

1

1...c6

Prepares ...d5 without blocking the c8 bishop.

2

2...d5

Challenges the centre, as in the French.

3

...Bf5 or ...Bg4

The key difference: the bishop develops outside the pawn chain first.

4

Then ...e6

Now the pawn chain is complete and no piece is trapped behind it.

MAIN LINES

Classical: 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5

Advance: 3.e5 Bf5

Exchange and Panov: 3.exd5

Fantasy: 3.f3

Very solid and structurally sound, at the cost of being slightly slow. It suits players who dislike sharp complications.