

Clearance & Interference

Chess

Two rarer motifs that decide sharp positions.

Clearance

- Move your own piece out of the way
- Often with a sacrifice, to gain time
- Frees a line, square or diagonal
- Another of your pieces then delivers the blow

Interference

- Place a piece between two enemy pieces
- Cuts the defensive connection
- Often a sacrifice onto a defended square
- The defender can no longer reach what it guarded

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Both are usually sacrifices, and both are commonly missed because the move looks absurd at first glance.

In a puzzle, if no normal move works, look at the moves that appear to hang a piece. These two motifs live there.