

Defensive Tactics

Chess

The resources that save lost positions.

Defence has its own tactical vocabulary.

Saving resources

Perpetual check — a draw from a lost position

Stalemate tricks

Counterattack on their king

Trading into a drawn endgame

Fortress — an impenetrable setup

How to find them

Look at every check you have

Look for their loose pieces

Ask what draws, not what wins

Consider giving material back for activity

Perpetual check is the commonest saving resource. Any position where their king has few squares is worth checking for it.