

Deflection & Decoy

Chess

Two ways to move a piece off a square, and how they differ.

Deflection

- Forces a defender to leave its post
- Usually with a capture or a threat
- What it was defending then falls
- Often a sacrifice

Decoy

- Lures a piece ONTO a specific square
- Where it can be forked, pinned or mated
- Also usually a sacrifice
- The square matters, not the departure

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Deflection is about where a piece leaves. Decoy is about where it arrives. Both usually cost material first.

Look for over-worked pieces: any piece doing two defensive jobs is a deflection waiting to happen.