

1.e4 or 1.d4

Chess

The two main first moves, and the kind of game each tends to produce.

1.e4 — open games

- Frees the queen and the light bishop
- Sharper, more tactical
- Faster development, earlier contact
- Meets: e5, Sicilian, French, Caro-Kann
- Recommended for beginners

1.d4 — closed games

- Protected by the queen from move one
- Slower, more strategic
- Pawn structures matter more
- Meets: Nf6 defences, d5, Dutch
- Fewer forcing lines to memorise

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Neither is objectively better. e4 rewards calculation; d4 rewards understanding of structure.

Below about 1800, opening choice matters far less than not hanging pieces. Both are entirely sound.