

Your First Game

Chess

What to actually do, in order, if you have just learnt the moves.

Enough to play a whole game reasonably.

1

Move a centre pawn

e4 or d4. Two squares.

2

Develop both knights

Toward the centre — f3 and c3, or f6 and c6.

3

Develop both bishops

Anywhere active, not blocked by your own pawns.

4

Castle

Usually kingside, in the first ten moves.

5

Then look for undefended pieces

Theirs, and yours. That is the whole middlegame at this stage.

BEFORE EVERY MOVE

Is anything of mine attacked?

Is anything of theirs undefended?

Am I in check?

Do not try to checkmate early. Develop, castle, and take free material when it appears.