

Gambits

Chess

What you buy with a sacrificed pawn, and when it is worth it.

The most commonly played gambits.

Gambit	Line	Compensation
King's Gambit	1.e4 e5 2.f4	Centre and open f-file
Evans Gambit	Italian, 4.b4	Fast development
Danish Gambit	1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3	Two bishops on long diagonals
Smith-Morra	Sicilian, 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3	Development, open files
Benko Gambit	1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5	Long-term queenside pressure
Budapest	1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5	Piece activity

Most gambits are objectively equal or slightly worse with best play. They win games because best play is hard to find at the board.