

Algebraic Notation

Chess

How to read and write a game: files, ranks, symbols, special cases.

Files a–h run left to right from White's side; ranks 1–8 run away from White.

Pieces

K king

Q queen

R rook

B bishop

N knight (K is taken)

pawns have no letter

Moves

e4 – pawn to e4

Nf3 – knight to f3

Bxe5 – bishop takes on e5

exd5 – e-pawn takes on d5

Rad1 – the a-file rook, when either could go

Symbols

+ – check

– checkmate

O-O – castles kingside

O-O-O – castles queenside

e8=Q – promotion

Annotation

! – good move

!! – brilliant

? – mistake

?? – blunder

!? – interesting

?! – dubious

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 — the number is the move pair, White then Black.