

Common Opening Traps

Chess

The traps that actually appear in club games, from both sides.

Short traps worth recognising instantly.

Trap	Line	Idea
Scholar's Mate	1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Qh5 Nf6??	Qxf7#
Fool's Mate	1.f3 e5 2.g4 Qh4#	Two moves
Légal's Mate	Sacrifice the queen for mate	Bxf7+ and Nd5#
Fishing Pole	...Ng4 inviting h3	Opens the h-file
Elephant Trap	QGD: Nxd5?? Nxd5	Wins a piece
Lasker Trap	Albin Countergambit	Under-promotion to a knight
Blackburne Shilling	1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nd4	Traps the queen

Scholar's Mate is refuted by 3...Qe7 or 3...g6. Defending it correctly wins a tempo, because the queen must retreat.