

Pawn Weaknesses

Chess

The structural weaknesses to create in their position and avoid in your own.

The standard weaknesses and what makes each vulnerable.

Weakness	Is	Problem
Doubled	Two on one file	Cannot defend each other
Isolated	No neighbours on adjacent files	No pawn can defend it
Backward	Behind its neighbours, on a half-open file	Fixed target
Hanging	Two adjacent, no pawn support	Strong or weak, sharply
Passed	No enemy pawn can stop it	An asset, not a weakness

A weak pawn only matters if it can be attacked. A doubled pawn on a closed file is often no weakness at all.