

Coordination

Chess

Pieces working together, and how to spot when they are not.

Pieces coordinate when they defend one another, share targets, and control complementary squares. Uncoordinated pieces defend nothing and threaten nothing together.

BATTERY
Q+B or R+R

CHECK FOR
loose pieces

IMPROVE
worst piece

- Batteries — queen and bishop, or doubled rooks — concentrate force.
- Pieces on the same diagonal, file or rank support each other.
- A piece defending another is doing two jobs at once.
- Undefended pieces are what tactics exploit.
- Improving your worst piece usually improves coordination most.
- Rooks belong on files where they will eventually matter.

LOOK FOR IT

Loose Pieces Drop Off: undefended pieces are the precondition for forks, pins and double attacks.

Before each move, note every undefended piece — yours and theirs. That single habit prevents and finds most tactics.