

Preparation

Chess

How to prepare for a specific opponent, without over-investing.

Useful in club and tournament play where you know your opponent.

1

Find their games

Online databases and club records.

2

Identify their first moves

Most players repeat the same repertoire.

3

Look for a repeated weakness

A structure they misplay, or a line they avoid.

4

Prepare a playable position

One you understand, not one you have only memorised.

5

Have a second option

In case they deviate, which they often will.

DO NOT

Prepare a line you do not understand

Rely on them playing the same move

Spend longer preparing than playing

The best preparation for most players is not opening study but tactics practice, because that is what decides their games.