

The Scandinavian

Chess

1...d5, the most direct answer to 1.e4, and its cost.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 — and then Black must decide how to recapture.

1

2...Qxd5

Immediate recapture. Simple, but the queen will be attacked.

2

3.Nc3

White develops with tempo, hitting the queen.

3

3...Qa5, Qd6 or Qd8

Three main retreats, each with its own character.

4

Or 2...Nf6

The Modern Scandinavian: regain the pawn later, keep the queen home.

WHY BEGINNERS LIKE IT

Very little theory

The same structure against almost anything

Black knows the position from move two

It breaks the rule about early queen moves and remains sound, because the queen retreats to a genuinely useful square.