

# The Sicilian Defence

Chess

The most popular answer to 1.e4, and what Black is actually doing.

*1.e4 c5. The main variations, by Black's second move idea.*

| Variation                 | Moves          | Character                 |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Najdorf</b>            | ...d6, Nf6, a6 | Sharp, deeply theoretical |
| <b>Dragon</b>             | ...g6, Bg7     | Opposite-side attacks     |
| <b>Accelerated Dragon</b> | ...g6 early    | Less theory               |
| <b>Classical</b>          | ...Nc6, d6     | Flexible                  |
| <b>Scheveningen</b>       | ...e6, d6      | Small centre, solid       |
| <b>Sveshnikov</b>         | ...e5 early    | Concrete, popular         |
| <b>Alapin (White)</b>     | 2.c3           | Avoids all of it          |

The Sicilian scores well for Black but demands the most study of any defence. The Alapin and Closed Sicilian avoid most of it.