

Simplifying to Win

Chess

Which trades help when ahead, and the endgame to aim at.

The asymmetry that decides many converted advantages.

Situation	Trade	Avoid
Up a piece	Every piece	Trading all the pawns
Up a pawn	Pieces	Pawns
Down material	Pawns	Pieces
Better structure	Into a pawn endgame	Keeping heavy pieces
Opposite bishops, up material	Bishops off	Reaching that endgame
Attacking	Their defenders	Queens

Trading all the pawns while a piece up reaches a drawn king-and-piece ending. Material without pawns often cannot mate.