

Skewers

Chess

A pin in reverse, and why it wins material more directly.

A skewer attacks a valuable piece through to a lesser one behind it.

Pin: lesser in front. Skewer: greater in front.

Rook checks a king with king on side move; you take the rook

The most common form.

Bishop skewers queen to rook

Wins the exchange

On a diagonal.

Defence

Interpose, or counterattack

Or move both out of line.

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ **Confusing pins and skewers**

✓ **Look at which piece is in front**

In a pin the piece cannot move; in a skewer it must, and that is what wins the material behind it.

Skewers on the king are absolute: he must move, so the piece behind is always lost.