

How to Improve

Chess

Where study time actually pays off, by rating band.

Rough allocation of study time by strength.

Rating	Spend most time on
Under 1000	Not hanging pieces; basic checkmates
1000–1400	Tactics puzzles; simple endgames
1400–1800	Tactics; positional basics; game review
1800–2000	Endgames; planning; a real repertoire
2000+	Deep preparation; specific weaknesses

Opening study is the most popular and least effective use of time below 1800. Games are decided by tactics, not by move twelve.