

Time Management

Chess

How to spend clock time, and where it is wasted.

Time trouble loses more games than bad openings.

Spend time when

The pawn structure is about to change

A piece is about to be traded

You are choosing between plans

There is a tactic on the board

It is a critical, irreversible decision

Move quickly when

It is a forced recapture

Only one legal reply makes sense

You are in a known opening line

The position is quiet and symmetrical

In time trouble

Play safe, forcing moves

Avoid complications

Do not calculate deeply — trust patterns

Take the draw if it is there

A common guideline: use about half your time by move twenty.
Reaching move twenty with 90% of the clock is not efficiency.