

10 Timely Ideas for Opening a Game of Chess

1 Open with a **center** Pawn

Quick! There's not a move to waste! The center squares **e4**, **e5**, **d4**, & **d5** are key squares for both attack and defense. Each player competes in the opening to get their pieces onto better squares, especially all the center squares.

Opening up your d-Pawn unleashes a Bishop towards the King-side. Of course, e-Pawn openings also power-up the Queen nicely.

Either way, march a Pawn forward and occupy a center square. Moves should not be wasted on any of the side pawns since you will just miss your best chances to claim your share of the center.



Pieces play more powerfully from and through the center. For example, a Knight posted in the center reaches 4x as many squares as it does in a corner.

The player who controls the center usually has more good chances for attack and defense. As the first moves tick back and forth between White and Black the player who most quickly wakes up their pieces and claims a strong position in the center usually has better options for continuing.

Simply: Play an **e** or **d** pawn to open lanes for a Bishop and your Queen and to claim a square and your share of the center.



David Donaldson teaches Chess

contact: chess@davidDonaldson.com

parents: <http://www.davidDonaldson.com/chessHome.html>