

Zaps and Traps from the Caro-Kann Defense Help Guide

Diagram 1:

White to move. Look at the mistake Black just made. Black used the f7 Pawn to capture Whites Knight on e6 (fxe6). Look for a major piece to check the King on h5. Black now cannot stop the strong attack White has started. Black has to get out of check. The King cannot move out of check and no Black piece can capture your attacking piece, so Black must block on g6. Keep attacking with your major piece and you will have checkmate.

Diagram 2:

White to move. Black has placed the Queen and King on the same diagonal making it easy for White to Pin the Queen to the King (Absolute Pin). Look for a move with your dark squared Bishop that is protected by the White Queen but, attacks the Black Queen.

Diagram 3:

White to move. The White Knight on e5 is stopping the White Queen from attacking the Black King. If you move the Knight you will place the King in check. Place your White Knight to attack a major piece and win big? Attack the most powerful piece in chess.

Diagram 4:

White to move. Sacrificing a Queen is only a good idea if you have checkmate. In this diagram we have checkmate in one move. Look at the Knight on e5, he has many responsibilities. First he is attacking the f7 square which might be an important square to keep looking at. Second the Knight is attacking the Kings only flight square d7. If we could only check the King we might have checkmate. Look to move a piece that is already developed to a protected square for checkmate.

Diagram 5:

White to move. The Black Queen is attacking with no help from the rest of the team. It will now be destroyed if White can find a move that will attack the Queen on a whole File (Up and Down). What major piece could you use to attack the Black Queen right now while being protected by the White Queen?

Diagram 6:

White to move. Try and not bring your Queen out early unless you see something that could get you some free material or help your position. Use a major piece to check the King and you will see that your piece also attacks something else. Its free, why not.