

Zaps and Traps from the Center Counter Defense Help Guide

Diagram 1:

White to move. In this diagram the Black King and Queen are on the same diagonal. Bishops attack on diagonals, so by placing a White Bishop somewhere protected by the Knight and attacking the Queen looks great to me.

Diagram 2:

White to move. Look at the Bishop on f1. If the Knight on c4 was not there you would be attacking the Black Queen. Where can the Knight go to check the King? By using your Knight to check the King, the Black King must get out of check which then would allow your Bishop to take the Queen on your next turn.

Diagram 3:

White to move. It looks like White is going to lose the Rook on h1. But if you look hard you can see that Whites light squared Bishop can play to attack the Queen and protect the Rook. Make sure that you place your Bishop on a protected square. As an added extra try to find a square that the Black Queen can safely move to. I do not think you can find one.

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. This is great. Blacks Queen has placed itself in a bad spot. With the help of the only Pawn able to attack the Queen you can trap her and win big material.

Diagram 6:

White to move. Sometimes in chess players make moves that place pressure on other pieces trying to get you to not look at the board, maybe missing something really big. At first glance you might be afraid of losing your Queen to the Knight on c3. But don't worry look and see if you can make a Knight move that will leave the Black King in checkmate. Look closely at the Bishop on b5, he is taking away the Black Kings only available moves. Now look for a Knight move that checkmates.