

Take a Fit Test

Get your scores in games that challenge Memory, Attention, and more



lumosis

Take Fit Tes

FOR
DUMMIES
A Wiley Brand

Making Everything Easier



Rock your resolutions. Take the Dummies challenge and you could **WIN \$1,000!**



See All Topics

Games

Chess

Chess For Dummies

From **Chess For Dummies, 3rd Edition** by James Eade

Unless you have amazing powers of visualization, chess requires a chess set and a board for you to play on. The chessboard is divided up into sections called ranks and files, and the set is composed of different chessmen with different movements and powers. After you understand all of these topics, you can start playing the great game of chess, with checkmate as your goal.

Cheat Sheet

Setting Up Your Chessboard

Setting up your chessboard is the first step in playing a game of chess. Take your time setting up the board, until you're confident that you know where everything goes:

1. The rooks go on the corner squares.
2. Place the knights next to the rooks.
3. Put the bishops on the board next to the knights.
4. After the bishops come the queens. The queens always start on the square of the same shade — the white queen starts on a light square, and the black queen starts on a dark square.
5. Place the kings next to the queens, which is only fitting.
6. Add the pawns straight across the rank in front of the other pieces.

Adv

thinker's da
a carefully sel
book excerpt f
email each day

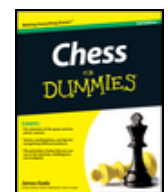
[click here to sign](#)

delanceyplace

More Series

[Chess Openings For Du](#)

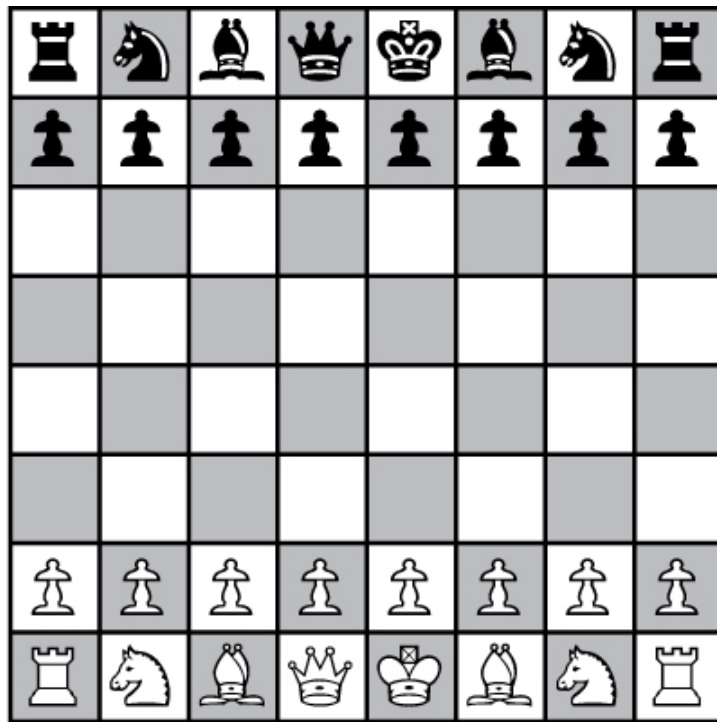
Get the Book



Ches

US \$

Adv



Naming Ranks and Files in Chess

The chessboard is divided into ranks (numbers) and files (letters). There are eight of each, and each is comprised of eight squares of equal size:

- *Ranks* are rows that go from side to side across the chessboard and are referred to by numbers. Each chessboard has eight ranks, which are numbered from the *bottom* of the board (where the white pieces start) on up.
- *Files* are columns that go up and down the chessboard, and each board has eight of them. Because numbers indicate ranks, letters indicate files, which are labeled from left to right.
- The naming conventions for ranks and files allows you to give an identifier to every square by using what chess people call the *file-first method*. For example, the lower right-hand square is called h1. This name is shorthand for h-file, first rank.



Newsletters

Sign up for one of our

- Computers, Mobile & Tech
- Digital Photography
- Food, Home & Gardening
- Health & Wellness
- Mac
- Microsoft Windows & Office
- Online & Social Networking
- Personal Finance & Insurance
- Small Business

enter E-Mail address

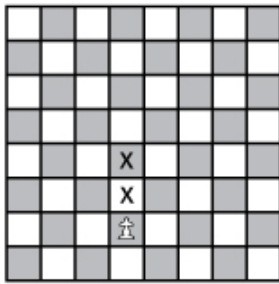
[Privacy Policy](#)

8	a8	b8	c8	d8	e8	f8	g8	h8
7	a7	b7	c7	d7	e7	f7	g7	h7
6	a6	b6	c6	d6	e6	f6	g6	h6
5	a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5
4	a4	b4	c4	d4	e4	f4	g4	h4
3	a3	b3	c3	d3	e3	f3	g3	h3
2	a2	b2	c2	d2	e2	f2	g2	h2
1	a1	b1	c1	d1	e1	f1	g1	h1
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

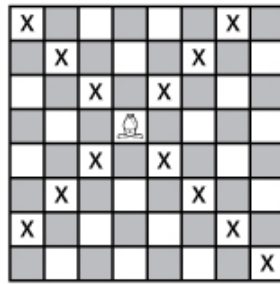
Knowing the Moves that Chess Pieces Can Make

Before you can play a game of chess, you need to know how to move the pieces (legally). A chess piece's power is tied to its mobility. The more mobile a piece is, the more powerful it is:

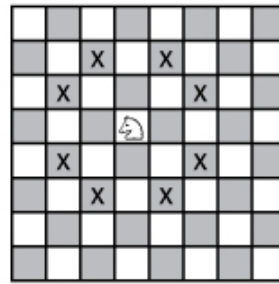
- **Pawns:** Pawns can only move forward. On their first move, they can move one or two squares. Afterwards, they can move only one square at a time. They can capture an enemy piece by moving one square forward diagonally.
- **Bishops:** Bishops can move any number of squares diagonally.
- **Knights:** Knights can move only in an L-shape, one square up and two over, or two squares over and one down, or any such combination of one-two or two-one movements in any direction.
- **Rooks:** Rooks can move any number of squares, up and down and side to side.
- **Queens:** Queens can move any number of squares along ranks, files and diagonals.
- **Kings:** Kings can move one square at a time in any direction.



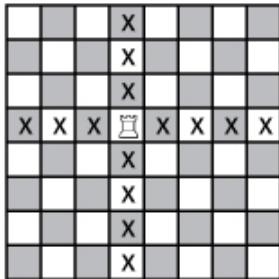
pawn
(can move 2 squares on 1st move only)



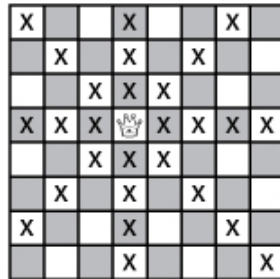
bishop



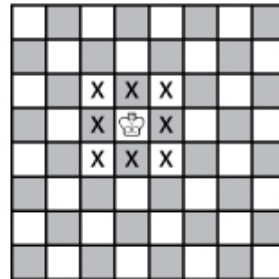
knight



rook



queen



king

Understanding Check, Checkmate, and Stalemate in Chess

In chess, *check* is an attack on an enemy king; this attack can't be ignored. If the check can't be neutralized, it is *checkmate* and the game is over. *Stalemate* occurs when one player has no legal moves, but his king isn't in check. Here are a few additional details on check, checkmate, and stalemate in chess:

- **Check:** An attack on a king by either an opposing piece or an opposing pawn is called *check*. When in check, a player must do one of the following:
 - Move the king so that it's no longer under attack.
 - Block the attack by interposing a piece between the king and the attacker.
 - Capture the attacking piece.
- **Checkmate:** When a king is in check and can't perform any of the preceding moves, it has been *checkmated*. If your king is checkmated, you lose the game. The term *checkmate* is commonly shortened to simply *mate*.
- **Stalemate:** *Stalemate* is the relatively rare situation when a player whose king isn't in check has no legal move to make. Stalemate is considered a draw. Neither player wins, but the game is over.

Add a Comment

Print



Share



3

- [Chess Openings For Dummies](#)
- [Understanding the Basics of Chess Openings](#)
- [Examining the Material Element in Chess](#)
- [Opening Up the Board with Open Chess Games](#)
- [Naming Ranks and Files in Chess](#)

Promoted Stories From Around The Web



Kym Marsh mourns the death of her friend Jack Essex: 'The outpouring of

OK!



Man Of Who? 15 Of The Most Suspect Preachers Around

MadameNoire



Man dismissed from job after taking time off to look after newborn son and sick

The Express



You'll Never Go Back To Old Email After Trying This Simple Gmail Trick

Rational Idealist



If You're Using Gmail, This Trick Will Save You Hours

Production Savvy



9 Last Names on the Brink of Extinction

MyHeritage

Recommended by **Outbrain**

Sponsored Links

How's Your Singing Voice?

Watch This Amazing Video - See How You Can Improve Dramatically!

www.thesingingzone.com

Free Sewing Classes

Check out these free mini-classes taught by pro fabric designers!

www.craftsy.com/classes/sewing

Search Death Records

1) Simply enter their name. 2) Find their death record online.

ancestry.co.uk/Death_Records

Sort by Best

Share Favorite

Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

DISQUS

Subscribe

Add Disqus to your site

Privacy

Advertisement



Inside Dummies.com

FOR DUMMIES MOBILE APPS



Make everything easier on the go! Get helpful information with our best selling apps for iPhone and iPod touch.

CAREER STRATEGIES



Job searching? Career change? Get help from our reliable tips and sound advice.

PERSONAL FINANCE



Make managing your personal finances easier with help from Dummies.com

THE FACTS

