

# NOTES ON CHESS

BRUNO XIMENEZ

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## 1 1.E4 – ITALIAN OPENING

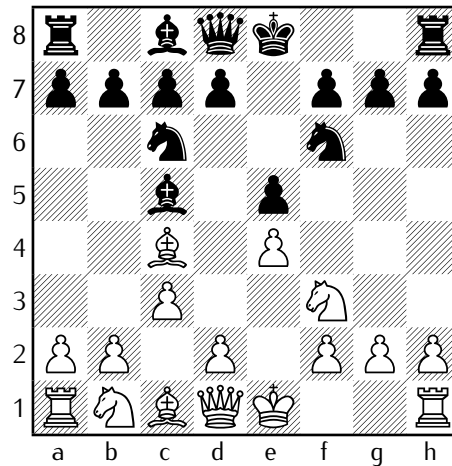
The Italian game is known as the opening with e4 and black's most popular response e5, followed by 2. Nf3 Nc6. The idea being white attacks the advanced pawn and Nc6 protects it. An aggressive follow up is 3.Bc4, attacking a weak pawn on f7.

Two popular responses for Black are the symmetrical variation, 3. ... Bc5 and the two knights defense, 3. ... Nf6. The game can be followed by 4. c3 with the idea of advancing d4 attacking the pawn e5. Black can continue with 4. ... Nf6 ignoring the threat on e5.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 c3 Nf6

Now we investigate the 5. d4 move. Black's response is 5. ... exd4 6. cxd4 Bb4+. Usual response is 7. Nc3 and then Nf6 is free to capture e4 because Nc3 is pinned!

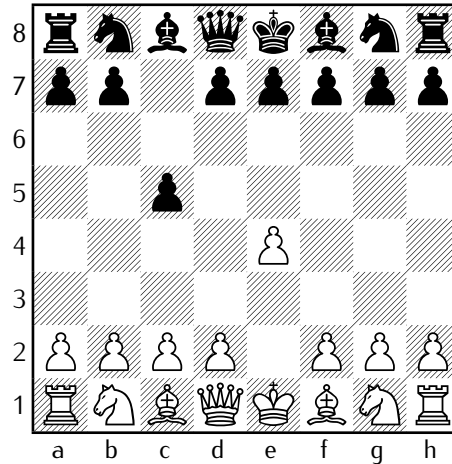
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## 2 1.E4 2.C5 – SICILIAN DEFENSE

The Sicilian defense is an effective and sharp response to white's 1.e4 opening. It is defined by 1.e4 2.c5. The different ways to continue the opening from this point on will be called Sicilian Defense variants. The main idea behind 1. ... c5 is to attack and dominate the central square d4 with a side pawn ready to exchange with d file white's pawn. Here, the central pawns would have more positional value than the side pawns. This simple idea shapes the next black's moves, which will tend to build up pressure on that square.

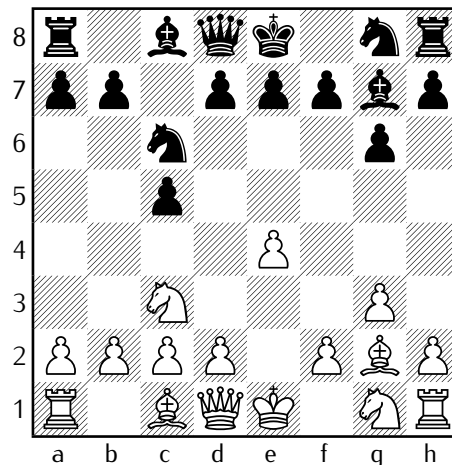
1 e4 c5



### 2.1 Closed Sicilian

The closed Sicilian is defined by 1.e4 c5 2.Nc3. White is now, in general, demonstrating that advancing the d pawn to d4 is not in his immediate plan. A common follow up is:

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 2...c6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7



### 3 1.C4 – ENGLISH OPENING