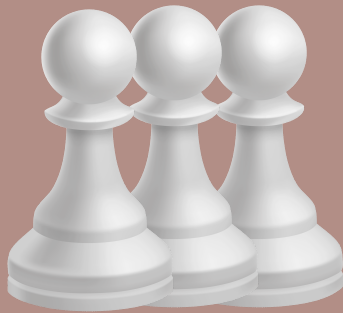


Material Value - Beginner

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The queen is obviously better than the pawn, but by how much? This lesson breaks down the value of every piece so you can make smarter trades and stronger plans.



OR



Here is the standard value of each piece based on its strength:

Pawn = 1

Knight = 3

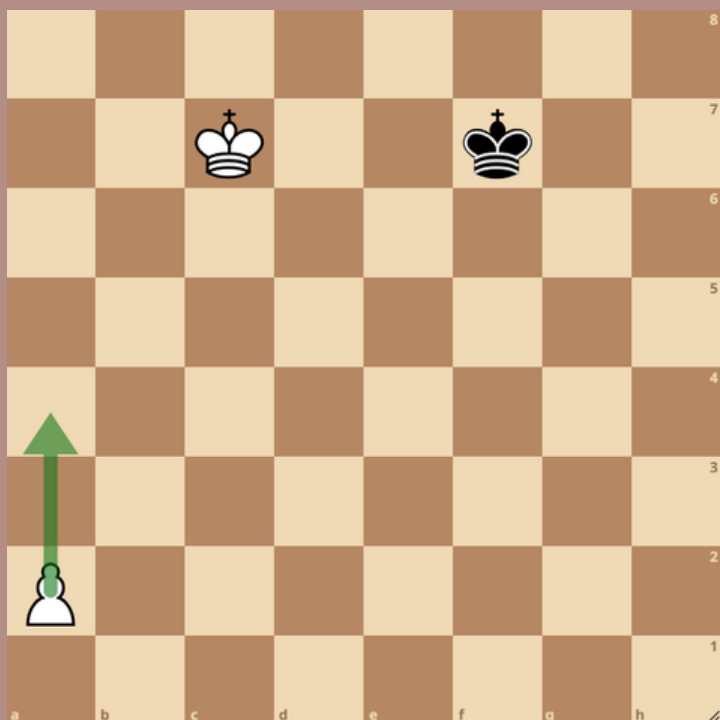
Bishop = 3

Rook = 5

Queen = 9

King = the whole game!

This value system is supported by major chess platforms like chess.com. However, it is important to remember that these numbers are only general guidelines for what a piece is worth. An example of a piece being worth a different amount than the standard value is shown below.



Even though a pawn's standard value is only one point, white's pawn is actually worth much more! If the pawn is able to promote, it will become a queen.

Material value has several main implications:

1. Knight + Bishop (6) > Rook. (5)
2. Knight + Pawn (4) < Rook. (5)
3. Rook + Rook (10) > Queen (9)
4. Pawn + Pawn + Pawn (3) = Knight (3)
5. Knight + Knight + Bishop (9) = Queen (9)

Don't try to memorize these; they will come naturally through practice. The point of this was to reveal some interesting combinations.

Please note: this is a very basic understanding of material value. After you understand this lesson quite thoroughly, see the intermediate lesson about material value. Spoiler: a knight and bishop don't quite have the same value. But don't worry about that for now. 😊