Common opening mistakes

1. Playing for mate too soon

**Kotsinis,Vasileios (1082) - Koumis,Filippos (1601) [C20]**

3rd Agios Nikolaos 2019 Agios Ioannis GRE (6.16), 30.08.2019

**1.e2–e4 e7–e5 2.Qd1–h5 Nb8–c6 3.Bf1–c4**  playing for Scholar's Mate. The white queen is out far too soon.

XABCDEFGHY  
8r+lwqkvlntr(  
7zppzpp+pzpp'  
6-+n+-+-+&  
5+-+-zp-+Q%  
4-+L+P+-+$  
3+-+-+-+-#  
2PzPPzP-zPPzP"  
1tRNvL-mK-sNR!  
xabcdefghy

**3...Qd8–e7 4.Nb1–c3 Ng8–f6** [gains time by attacking the queen]

**5.Qh5–d1** [going home shows the stupidity of getting it out too soon]

**5...d7–d6 6.h2–h3 Bc8–e6 7.Bc4–b3 0–0–0 8.d2–d3 d6–d5**

XABCDEFGHY  
8-+ktr-vl-tr(  
7zppzp-wqpzpp'  
6-+n+lsn-+&  
5+-+pzp-+-%  
4-+-+P+-+$  
3+LsNP+-+P#  
2PzPP+-zPP+"  
1tR-vLQmK-sNR!  
xabcdefghy

Black is much better developed and so opens the centre]

**9.e4xd5 Nf6xd5 10.Ng1–e2 Qe7–h4 11.Nc3–e4 h7–h6** [stopping Bg5]

**12.Bb3xd5 Be6xd5 13.Ne2–g3 g7–g6** [stopping Nf5]

**14.Qd1–g4+ Qh4xg4 15.h3xg4 Nc6–d4** [threatens Nxc2+]

**16.Ke1–d1 f7–f5 17.g4xf5 g6xf5 18.Ne4–d2 Bd5xg2 19.Rh1–h5 e5–e4 20.Ng3xf5 e4xd3 21.c2–c3** [21.c2xd3 Nd4xf5 22.Rh5xf5 Rd8xd3 and black is a pawn up and winning]

**21...Nd4–c2 22.Nf5–e3 Nc2xa1 23.Ne3xg2 Rh8–g8 24.Ng2–e3 Rg8–g1+ 25.Nd2–f1 Na1–c2** and black is winning – white resigned.

Notice how, by playing sensibly, black developed quicker and spent the rest of the game attacking white.

I even found a game where World Champion Magnus Carlsen tried the opening – even he could not get away with it against a much lower rated opponent!

**Carlsen,M (2835) - Vokhidov,Shamsiddin (2480) [C20]**

World Rapid 2018 St Petersburg RUS (2.1), 26.12.2018

**1.e2–e4 e7–e5 2.Qd1–h5 Nb8–c6 3.Bf1–c4 g7–g6 4.Qh5–f3 Qd8–e7 5.Ng1–e2 Ng8–f6 6.d2–d3 Bf8–g7 7.Nb1–c3 h7–h6 8.Nc3–d5 Nf6xd5 9.e4xd5 Nc6–a5 10.d5–d6 c7xd6 11.Bc4–d5 Na5–c6 12.Bc1–d2 Qe7–f6 13.Qf3–e4 0–0 14.0–0 Nc6–e7 15.Ne2–c3 Qf6–f5 16.Qe4–b4 Ne7xd5 17.Nc3xd5 Kg8–h7 18.Nd5–c7 Ra8–b8 19.Qb4xd6 b7–b6 20.f2–f3 Bc8–b7 21.Ra1–e1 Rf8–c8 22.Bd2–c3 Bg7–f8 23.Nc7–b5 Bf8xd6 24.Nb5xd6 Qf5–e6 25.Nd6xc8 Rb8xc8 26.Re1xe5 Qe6–d6 27.Rf1–e1 Bb7–d5 28.a2–a4 Bd5–e6 29.a4–a5 b6xa5 30.Kg1–f1 Rc8–c5 31.Re5xc5 Qd6xc5 32.Re1–a1 d7–d5 33.Ra1xa5 Qc5–c7 34.Ra5–a4 Qc7xh2 35.Ra4xa7 Qh2–h1+ 36.Kf1–f2 d5–d4** 0–1

There are other ways to try and attack before developing. Look at this horror story:

**Park-Tamati,Philli (1537) - Forster,W (1864) [A43]**

127th ch-NZL Open 2020 Tauranga NZL (7.16), 20.01.2020

**1.d2–d4 c7–c5 2.d4xc5 e7–e5 3.Nb1–c3 Ng8–f6 4.Bc1–g5 Bf8xc5 5.Nc3–e4**

White is trying to attack far too soon. He gets a rude awakening!

XABCDEFGHY  
8rsnlwqk+-tr(  
7zpp+p+pzpp'  
6-+-+-sn-+&  
5+-vl-zp-vL-%  
4-+-+N+-+$  
3+-+-+-+-#  
2PzPP+PzPPzP"  
1tR-+QmKLsNR!  
xabcdefghy

**5...Nf6xe4 6.Qd1–d5** [6.Bg5xd8 Bc5xf2#]

**6...Qd8xg5 7.Ke1–d1** [7.Qd5xe4 Qg5–e7 and black stays a piece up]

**7...Ne4xf2+** [and white gave up]

**Atas,R (1498) - Acar,Kaan (1636) [A50]**

Turkish Cup 2020 Antalya TUR (7.105), 30.01.2020

**1.d2–d4 Ng8–f6 2.c2–c4 Nb8–c6 3.Nb1–c3 e7–e5 4.d4–d5 Nc6–e7 5.Bc1–g5 Ne7–g6 6.Nc3–e4**

XABCDEFGHY  
8r+lwqkvl-tr(  
7zppzpp+pzpp'  
6-+-+-snn+&  
5+-+Pzp-vL-%  
4-+P+N+-+$  
3+-+-+-+-#  
2PzP-+PzPPzP"  
1tR-+QmKLsNR!  
xabcdefghy

Again white should be concentrating on development. White has overlooked a neat trap:

**6...Nf6xe4 7.Bg5xd8 Bf8–b4+ 8.Qd1–d2 Bb4xd2+ 9.Ke1–d1 Bd2–a5** and white ends up a piece down so he resigned.

2. Being greedy too soon

**Popov,Sergey (1791) - Kokarev,Dm (2611) [A48]**

Lipetsk Rapid Winter Cup Lipetsk RUS (1.2), 17.01.2020

*[Nixon,Graham]*

**1.d2–d4 Ng8–f6 2.Ng1–f3 g7–g6 3.c2–c3 Bf8–g7 4.Bc1–f4 0–0 5.Nb1–d2 d7–d6 6.h2–h3 b7–b6 7.e2–e4 Bc8–b7 8.Bf1–d3 e7–e5 9.d4xe5 d6xe5 10.Nf3xe5**

XABCDEFGHY  
8rsn-wq-trk+(  
7zplzp-+pvlp'  
6-zp-+-snp+&  
5+-+-zp-+-%  
4-+-+PvL-+$  
3+-zPL+N+P#  
2PzP-sN-zPP+"  
1tR-+QmK-+R!  
xabcdefghy

Did white really think his highly rated opponent had overlooked the fact that this pawn was undefended?

**10...Nf6–h5** only now did white realise he is losing a piece e.g. **11.Bf4–h2** [11.g2–g3 Nh5xf4 12.g3xf4 Bg7xe5 13.f4xe5 Qd8xd3; 11.Qd1–c2 Nh5xf4]

**11...Bg7xe5 12.Bh2xe5 Qd8xd3** White resigned

The moral of all this is clear – **at the start of the game you should concentrate on developing your pieces and castling BEFORE trying to attack!!**