



The Grandmasters' Tips to Reducing Blunders

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Humans make mistakes. That is just in our nature, mistakes occur but we learn from them and continue forward. The same philosophy can be applied to chess. We make mistakes in our games, but the goal is to learn from them and move forward strengthening our game. So how do we learn from our mistakes and reduce blunders? We will take a look at 3 top tips in reducing blunders suggested by top chess experts!

1. A Game of Patience

Chess is a game of patience, where the saying "slow and steady wins the race" applies clearly. Slowing the game down and playing carefully can help us to reduce mistakes made in the game like losing free pieces and missed opportunities. Scan the board, look for the attacks, take the opportunities, and reduce blunders. By taking the full allotted time on your clock, you are already maximizing your chances of winning. Really? Well, think about it. Say you have 30 minutes on the clock, would you rather finish with 25 minutes left on the clock with many mistakes, or would you rather take the full 30 minutes and finish the game with a 95%+ accuracy rate? The latter, right?

2. The Rule of 3

The Rule of 3 is a universal principle used in various ways. For chess, we can use a version of this to help us reduce blunders.

Ask yourself these three questions:

1. Are my pieces under attack?
2. Are my opponent's pieces under attack?
3. How can I continue to improve my position?

Following this Rule of 3 can help you slow the game down, protect your pieces, maximize your thinking/calculations, and most importantly, take the opportunities your opponent presents!

3. Assume the Best, Don't Think the Worst



The worst thing to do in chess is assume your opponent is worse than you. By saying things like "Black won't see this checkmate" or "White won't capture my hanging my piece," we are severely limiting our thinking and miscalculating the position. Statements like these are often made without deeply calculating the intricacies of the position.

Assumptions can often turn out to be wrong, leading a player to blunder as they have overestimated their position and underestimated their opponent. This is one of the most dangerous things you can do in chess.

With these tips, you are now equipped to have a successful game with fewer blunders and more accurate moves! By being patient, following the Rule of 3, and reducing assumptions, you are ensuring a better chance of winning the game than not. As the great American master Paul Morphy once said, "Help your pieces, so they may help you."