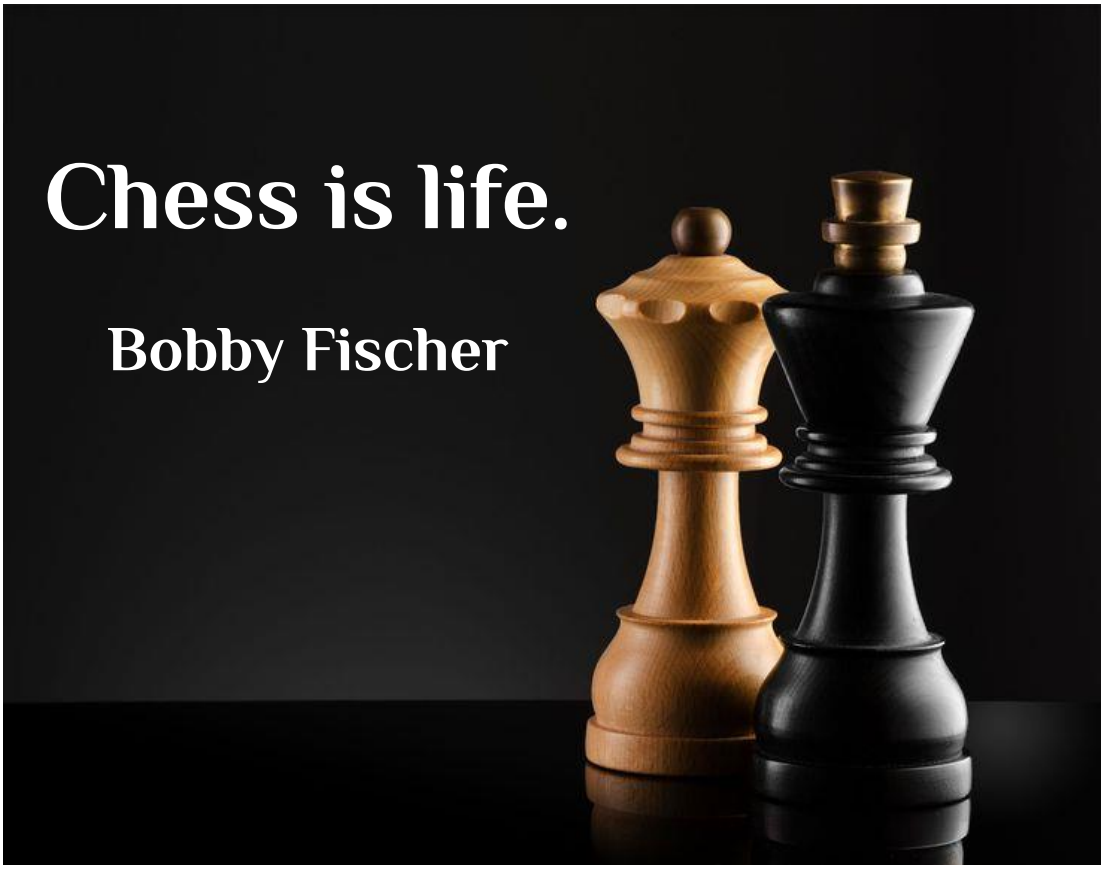
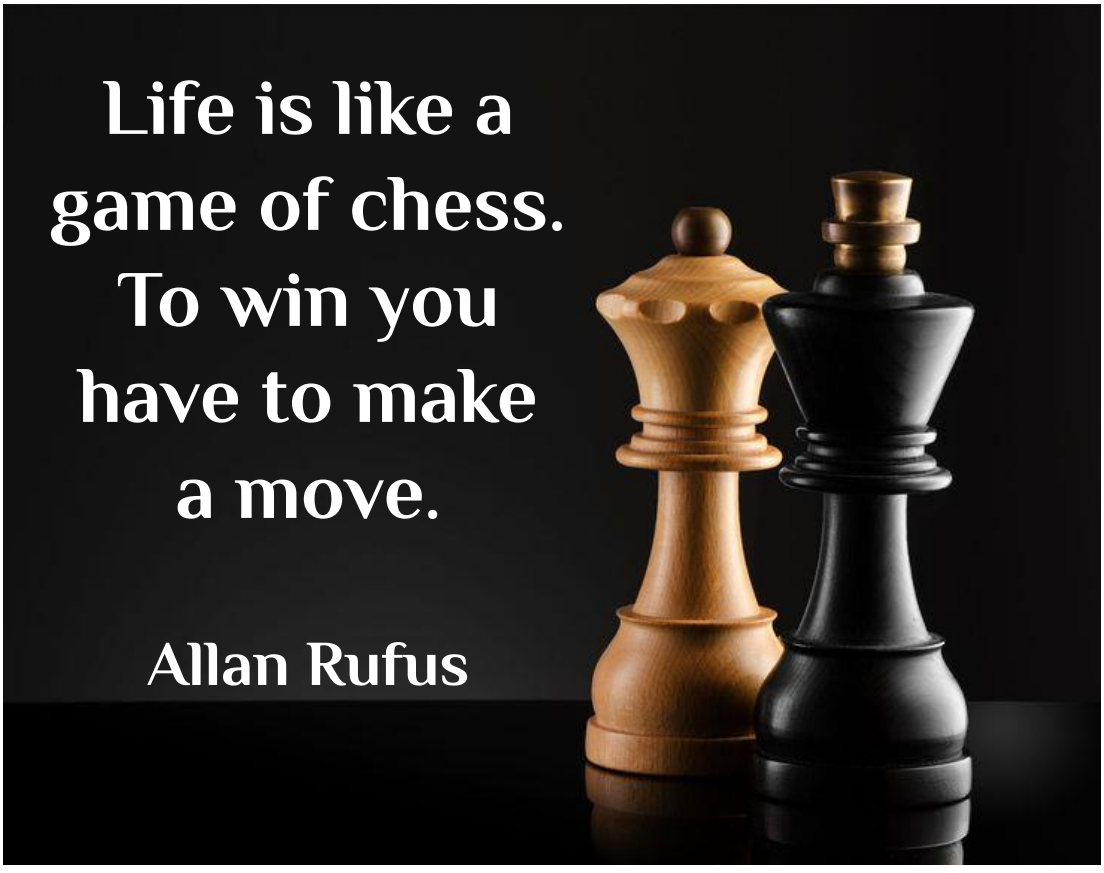
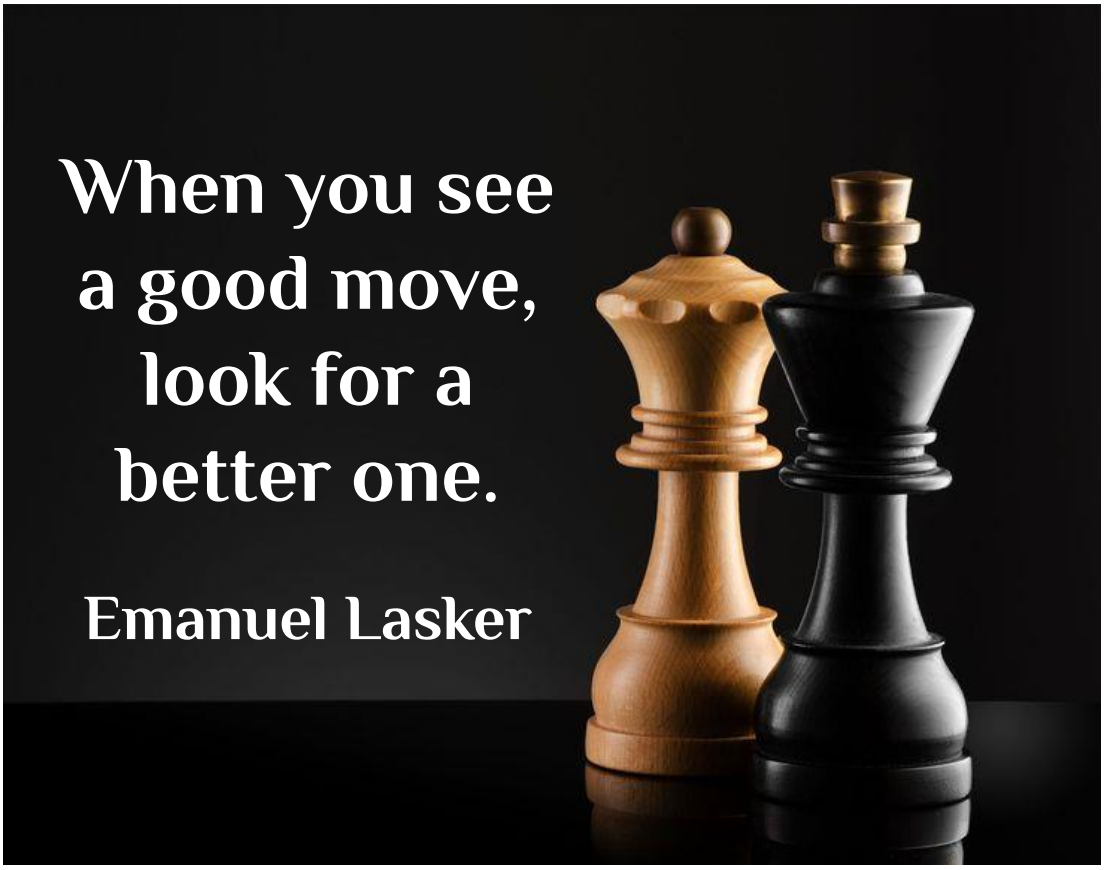
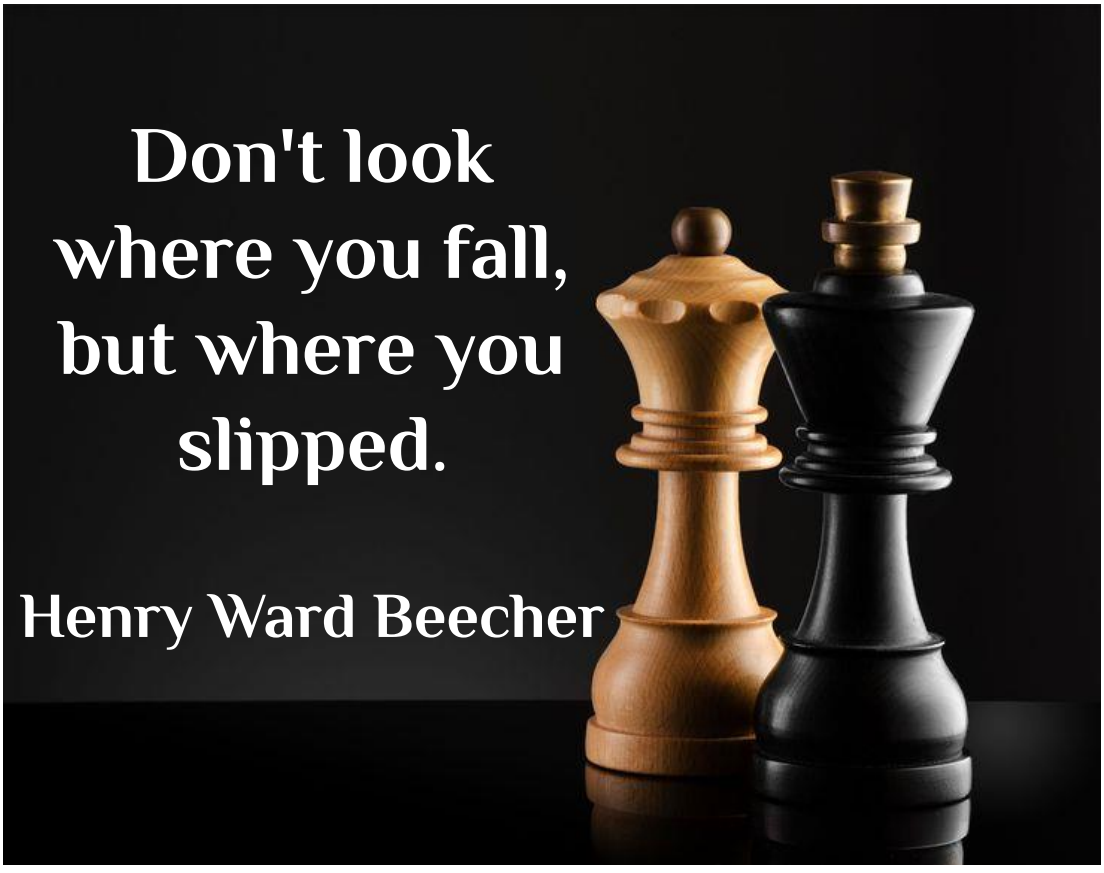

Chess is life.
Bobby Fischer


Life is like a game of chess. To win you have to make a move.
Allan Rufus


When you see a good move, look for a better one.
Emanuel Lasker


Don't look where you fall, but where you slipped.
Henry Ward Beecher

Most Common Questions About Chess

1. What Happens When a Pawn Reaches the Other Side?
2. How Many Pieces are there in Chess?
3. Can You Have Two Queens in Chess?
4. What colour goes first in chess?
5. Where does the King Go in Chess?
6. How Many Pawns are there in Chess?
7. Does Chess Make You Smarter?
8. How Do You Become a Grandmaster in Chess?
9. Who is the Youngest Chess World Champion?
10. How Can a King move in Chess?
11. What is the Longest Chess Game Ever Played?
12. Why Do Chess Players Write Down Their Moves?
13. What Are The Chess Pieces Called?
14. Can Bishops Move Backwards?
15. Which Chess Piece Can Only Move Diagonally?
16. Difference Between Chess and Checkers?
17. Can Pawns Move Backwards?
18. Is Chess Considered a Sport?

Most Common Questions About Chess

1. What Happens When a Pawn Reaches the Other Side?

In a game of chess, when a pawn reaches the other side of the board, that is the 8th rank [white] or 1st rank [black], the pawn can be promoted to a Queen, Rook, Bishop or Knight, with the queen being the most popular choice. There are no limits to how many times this can be achieved.

2. How Many Pieces are there in Chess?

There are 32 pieces in a game of chess, although most chess sets come with an extra white queen and black queen for pawn promotion purposes and therefore contain 34 pieces as a set.

3. Can You Have Two Queens in Chess?

Not only can you have two queens in chess, but it is possible to have even more, but each extra queen can only be gained by pawn promotion. Some sets come with extra queens, or you could use something else as a queen as long as both players agree and understand.

4. What colour goes first in chess?

Since about 1880 the rule has been that the player with the light pieces [White in most cases] will make the first move from whence the dark pieces move next and thus alternately. It was first suggested in 1857 and universally adopted in 1889.

5. Where does the King Go in Chess?

The White King is placed on the dark square which should be the fifth square to the right when the light square is in the bottom right-hand corner as you look across the board. The Black King goes directly opposite on the other side of the board.

6. How Many Pawns are there in Chess?

In total, there are 16 pawns in a game of chess in total; 8 individual white pawns and 8 black pawns on the other side. Pawns are the most numerous pieces on a chessboard and with the exception of the King are the piece with the most limited movement.

7. Does Chess Make You Smarter?

Chess can make you smarter because the game requires concentration, mastery of tactics, and strategy and that involves problem-solving against the clock which is the basis for the general IQ test. There have to be benefits of practicing chess in terms of increasing tactical intelligence.

8. How Do You Become a Grandmaster in Chess?

To become a Grandmaster a player is required to have achieved at least an Elo rating of 2500 and gained at least two but usually three grandmaster norms each by playing against opponents rated on average 2380 in a tournament winning at least 7/9 games to achieve a 2600 performance rating.

9. Who is the Youngest Chess World Champion?

Nodirbek Abdusattorov at 17 years and 3 months became the youngest ever chess World Champion when winning the 'Rapid' version event on December 26-28th 2021; The Uzbek teenager notably beat classical World Champion Magnus Carlsen who had been the previous youngest at 18.

10. How Can a King move in Chess?

A king can move only a single square at a time in any direction as long as the move is legal and does not place the King in check; the one exception is when, as long as a check position is not passed through, a special switch with the rook called 'Castling' is also an option.

11. What is the Longest Chess Game Ever Played?

At 7 hours and 45 minutes for 136 moves the longest ever-competitive chess game played came in the 2021 world championship between defending World Champion, Magnus Carlsen and the Challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi, beating the previous record of 124 moves 1978 Karpov-Korchnoi match.

12. Why Do Chess Players Write Down Their Moves?

Chess players write down their moves in order to track the game, prevent cheating as a rule in the laws of chess and FIDE competition rules. Chess players use a special way of writing moves called algebraic notation and all scoresheets have to be signed off, post-match.

13. What Are The Chess Pieces Called?

There are six different pieces in the game of chess and the correct names for chess pieces are King, Queen, Rooks, Bishops, Knights, and Pawns. The Knights are sometimes called horses, and the Rooks are often called castles.

14. Can Bishops Move Backwards?

A bishop can move backward as well as forwards in a game of chess as long as it remains on its diagonal, be that the light-squared bishop or the dark-squared bishop.

15. Which Chess Piece Can Only Move Diagonally?

The bishop is the only piece in chess that is limited solely to diagonal movement.

16. Difference Between Chess and Checkers?

The main difference between chess and checkers is that with checkers the goal is to capture and remove all of your opponent's pieces, whereas with chess the aim is to trap the opponent's king.

17. Can Pawns Move Backwards?

The pawn in chess is unique in that it is the only piece that is unable to make a backward move. The only time a pawn can move backward is after promotion.

18. Is Chess Considered a Sport?

Chess is not an Olympic sport, but it is considered a sport by the International Olympic committee because is a game of skill, widely practiced worldwide, and has competitors from a number of different countries.

True or False?

1. Chess is one of the most popular strategy games in the world. _____

2. Chess is a great way to improve your memory. _____

3. Advanced players know the chessboard so well that they can play blindfolded. _____

4. Initially, the Queen could only move one square at time diagonally. The piece was originally called the “advisor” and was one of the weakest pieces on the board. It wasn’t until chess was brought to Europe and the rise of Queen Isabella during the 15th century that the “advisor” was replaced with the “queen” and became the most powerful piece on the board. _____

5. The second book ever printed in the English language was a book about chess. _____

6. Chess is a mandatory subject in Armenian schools for every child over the age of six. _____

7. It is possible to checkmate an opponent in only two moves. _____

8. In 1997, chess world champion Garry Kasparov lost to the IBM supercomputer known as Deep Blue because of a bug in the software. _____

9. There are over 122 million possibilities of a knight’s tour, so the knight is very unpredictable. _____

10. The Persian phrase “Shah Mat” is the origin of the word “Checkmate” in chess. It means “the King is dead”. _____

11. The first-ever chessboards with dark squares and alternating lights appeared for the first time in Europe in 1090. _____

12. A priest who was forbidden to play chess invented the folding chessboard. A folded chessboard on a bookshelf simply looks like 2 books. _____

13. In 1985, Eric Koppert played 68 hours and 500 games of 10-minute chess. _____

14. In 1960, in Budapest, a record was set by Janos Flesch, who played 52 different opponents simultaneously, blindfolded. He won 31 of the games he played. _____

Who do you think is the greatest chess player of all time?
(rank the champions)



Mikhail Botvinnik



Emmanuel Lasker



Susan Polgar



Judit Polgar



Magnus Carlsen



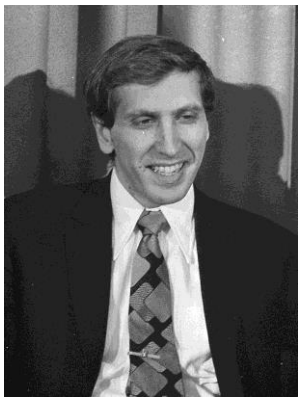
Vera Menchik



Anatoly Karpov



Maya Chiburdanidze



Bobby Fischer

Look at the photos. What are the men doing? Can you describe them?





Look at the photos. What are the men doing? Can you describe them?





What is Chess boxing ?

Chess boxing is a hybrid sport which combines the sport of boxing with games of chess in alternating rounds. Chess boxing fights have been staged since the spring of 2003.

A match between two opponents consists of up to eleven alternating rounds of boxing and chess sessions, starting with a four-minute chess round followed by two minutes of boxing and so on. Between rounds there is a 1-minute pause, during which competitors change their gear.

The form of chess played is "Speed Chess" in which each competitor has a total of twelve minutes for the whole game. Competitors may win by knockout, checkmate, a judge's decision or if their opponent's twelve minutes of chess time elapses. If a contestant doesn't make a move in the chess round, he will be issued a warning by the referee. At the second warning the contestant will be disqualified.

World-class chess-boxers are not just good boxers but are skilled chess players as well. For example, Sahzin has an Elo rating of around 1900 while European Chess Boxing champion Tihomir Atanassov Dovramadjiev is a FIDE Master with a rating over 2300 and has won multiple chess competitions.



I. Read the text.
What do numbers 2003, 11, 12, 4, 2, 1900, 2300 refer to?

II. Read the text again. Answer the questions.

1. What is Chess boxing?
2. When did it appear?
3. How many rounds does a match consist of?
4. Why do competitors need pauses?
5. What form of chess is played?
6. How do competitors win?
7. Can contestants be disqualified? What for?
8. Are chess-boxers skilled chess players? Give examples.

III. Answer the questions.

1. Have you ever heard about Chess boxing?
2. Would you like to take up such a hobby?
3. Why do people do this sport?
4. Why do people do extreme sports?

