

## Spanish

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5** The Spanish Opening, also called the Ruy Lopez after the great Spanish player **3...a6** This was Morphy's favourite move. It immediately makes white decide what to do with the bishop, take or retreat. **4.Ba4** [Anyone who plays the Spanish as black must be ready to face the Exchange Variation, which was a favourite of World Champions Lasker and Fischer **4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 (5.Nxe5** doesn't win a pawn because of the fork **5...Qd4 6.Nf3 Qxe4+)** **5...Bg4** This is probably the most sensible move, developing and pinning white's knight so it no longer attacks black's e-pawn. There are other moves black can try **6.h3 h5** and white will have to be very careful for quite a few moves. The game will become very tactical for a while, as black must create threats so that his bishop can stay on g4 and not be taken] **4...Nf6 5.0-0 Be7** The Closed Systems. Black puts his king safe before trying to do anything else [5...Nxe4 This is the Open Spanish, and leads to quite wild play **6.d4 (6.Re1 Nc5 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Nxe5 Be7 9.d4 Ne6** is about level) **6...b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6** The main starting position from which there are many plans. The Centre is still in dispute, and there are lots of open lines for both sides pieces, so this opening is quite tactical. **9.Nbd2** The favourite move of World Champion Karpov (**9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Bc2 Nxf2** is called the Dilworth Attack **12.Rxf2 f6** opening the f-file. **13.exf6 Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 Qxf6** black has a rook and pawn for 2 pieces, but white's king is a bit open) **9...Nc5 10.c3 d4** In this position Karpov was playing a World Championship game against Korchnoi and invented the amazing sacrifice **11.Ng5** To take or not to take? Korchnoi decided to decline, but why?] **6.Re1** In the Spanish, as soon as white defends his e-pawn, black must prevent white from playing **Bxc6** as after that he will lose his own e-pawn **6...b5** [6...0-0? **7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Nxe5]** **7.Bb3 0-0** [7...d6 can also be played, especially if black wants to play solidly.] **8.c3 d6** [8...d5 The Marshall Gambit is another crazy attacking system, where black sacrifices a pawn in the hope of activating his forces **9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5** and that is white a pawn ahead, but look at white's undeveloped queen side **10...Nxe5 11.Rxe5 c6 12.d4 Bd6 13.Re1 Qh4** and the

position looks very dangerous for white. This opening has been studied a lot, and there are lots of tricks and traps to learn, perhaps too much for most people] **9.h3** This move is usually played to stop black from developing their light squared bishop. This is a tough position with lots of plans available, but a good one to study as there have been no pieces or pawns taken yet so the strategy is quite difficult. Both sides can create chances anywhere on the board. White can attack on the king side or the queen side, and can push in the centre. Black can also aim on either side of the board. **9...Na5** The Chigorin Variation named after the great Russian player of the 1800's. Black moves his knight attacking white's good bishop, thus gaining time to push his c-pawn to the centre. [9...Nb8 This is called the Breyer System and was the favourite move of World Champion Boris Spassky. The knight on c6 needs to find a place, and so repositions itself via d7] **10.Bc2 c5 11.d4** This is the main starting position for a number of different plans. This is a really tough position. The centre can be closed or stay half open, or even be almost fully cleared. Either side can try to attack on either side of the board. The strategy is very complex and so studying this opening makes looking at other openings quite easy.