

# The P2K system for teaching Chess

**P2K stands for Pawn to King**, and represents the sequential method for teaching chess to a class.

It's a Step by Step approach and encourages the use of chess sets within 10 minutes of starting the lessons.

**Chess Set considerations:** Chess sets are the most expensive aspect to self-teaching chess. Ideally, tournament chess sets should be used but can cost up to €10 each. Alternatively a set could be used between 4 players, or the low cost Cardboard sets can be used (c17 cardboard sets for €20)

Here is the recommended approach to P2K...

- 1. Introduce the Chess board and the six different pieces.**  
For an exercise, the students place the pieces on the board.
- 2. Show how the pawns move.**  
Then play the Pawn Game several times. That's where the first pawn to the other side wins.
- 3. Introduce the Queen.**  
Then play the Queen and Pawns game. There are two ways to win; 1<sup>st</sup> pawn to the other side wins, or first person to capture all the opponents pawns wins. Play this game 2 or 3 times.
- 4. Introduce the Rook and Bishop.**  
Place the Rooks, Bishops, Queens and Pawns on the board in their start-up position. The way to win is capture everything. Allow about 10-15 minutes for this game – most games won't get finished.
- 5. Introduce the Knight.**  
Then play the Horse race game. Just one knight each is used. The way to win is get the knight to the other end of the board and back first. If the opponents knight is captured, the game is also won. Play two games, one as white and the other as black. (White should win in both cases once they are experienced)
- 6. Introduce the King.**  
The King's move is shown, and check and checkmate. (castling is not introduced until later). Then both players play 'real chess' for one or two games, or until the assigned class time runs out.
- 7. Explain Castling, Draws, and En Passant in later steps.**  
Then continue to play again. En Passant should be left until the very end.

Players should be moved around to play different opponents. It can take 15 to 20 games before players are fluent with the basic moves. This can be done over weeks.

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