

GM Miguel Illescas and the [Internet Chess Club](http://www.chessclub.com)  
present:

# Chess Strategy Lessons



GM Miguel Illescas doesn't need a presentation, but just to put things in the right perspective, we're talking about one of the most influential chess players in the last decades, especially in Spain.

Miguel, so far, has won the Spanish national championship of 1995, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2010. In team competitions, he has represented his country at many Olympiads, from 1986 onwards, and won an individual bronze medal at Turin in 2006. Miguel won international tournaments too, such as Las Palmas 1987 and 1988, Oviedo 1991, Pamplona 1991/92, 2nd at Leon 1992 (after Boris Gulko), 3rd at Chalkidiki 1992 (after Vladimir Kramnik and Joel Lautier), Lisbon Zonal 1993, and 2nd

at Wijk aan Zee 1993 (after Anatoly Karpov). He kept winning during the latter part of the nineties, including Linares (MEX) 1994, Linares (ESP) Zonal 1995, Madrid 1996, and Pamplona 1997/98. Some Palmares!

In this series, titled "Chess Strategy Lessons," GM Illescas shares with us his in-depth knowledge of the game, and - most importantly - teaches us how to use the thought processes that turn an amateur into a chess player.

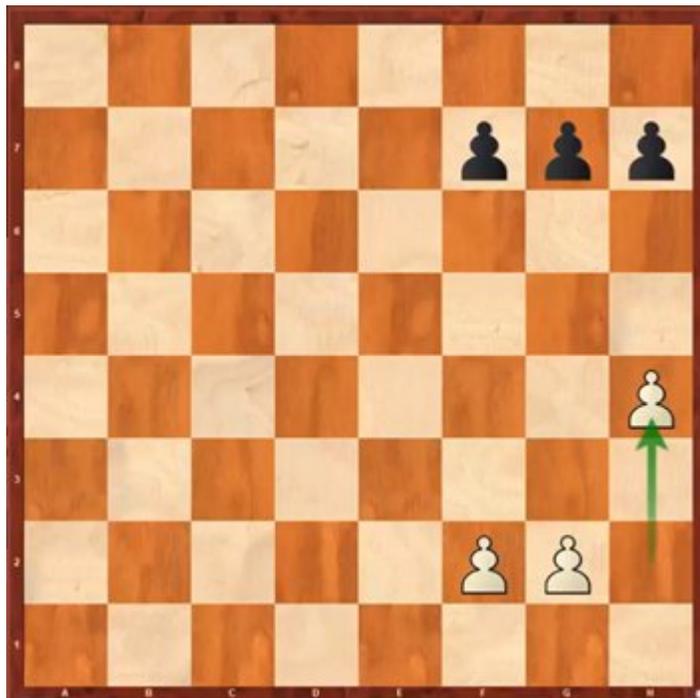
The content is absolutely fantastic. You'll find yourself using what Miguel shows in these videos, and it will give your game a boost!



This is a guide that comes with the video course "Chess Strategy Lessons."

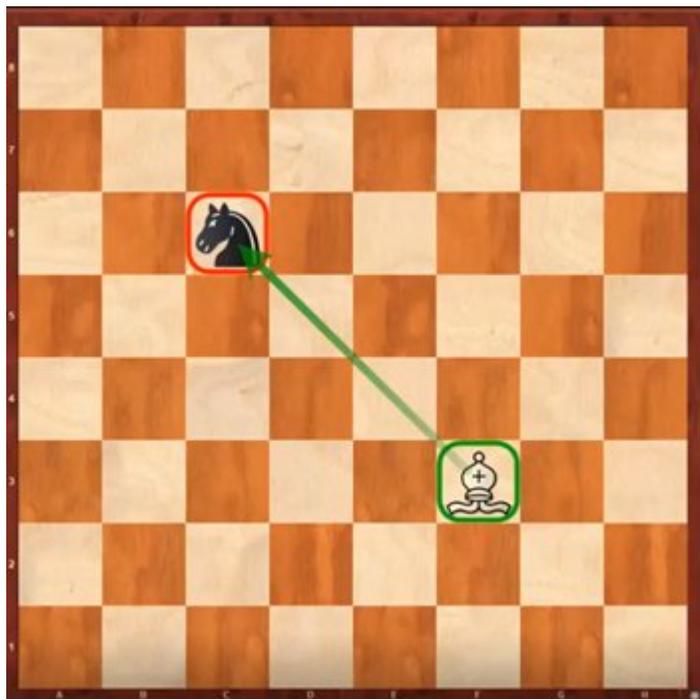
To view the Course intro video click [HERE](#).

## Video 1 – Pushing the Rook Pawn



A new trend seems to be that of pushing the rook pawn in various parts of the game. It is a piece of strategy that can lead to attacking situations, but, like any plan, it needs careful execution and precise calculation. In this video, GM Illescas illustrates this vital concept by using a simple board configuration and then analyzing two games from the recent Candidates tournament.

## Video 2 – Bishop takes Knight



In this second video of his fantastic series, GM Miguel Illescas tackles a situation that occurs very often in a chess game: Bishop takes Knight. Specifically, GM Miguel shows us the case where a "good" bishop takes a knight. Kramnik said that a bad Bishop is better than a Knight, and he is a virtuoso of the "bishop pair.". As usual, the truth is in the middle. In the video, GM Illescas shows us - with some good examples the balance between these two pieces, which some consider the real "interesting wood" in a chess game. Despite being so different, the Knight and the Bishop have more or less the same value, but, as you'll see in the video, it mostly depends on what's happening on the board!

## Video 3 – Bishop takes Knight – Part 2

In the third video, GM Miguel Illescas continues to show us how important it is to know the real value of Bishop and Knight, in different phases of the game and depending on how the pieces are configured over the board.

## Video 4 - Carlsbad structure

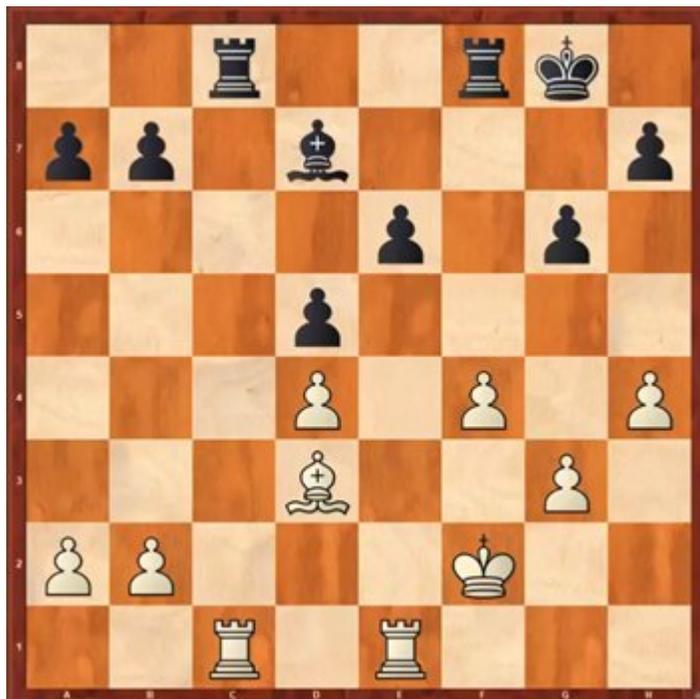


When white takes c4xd5, and black recaptures with e6xd5 in the queen's gambit, we reach the well-known Carlsbad structure, where black usually plays c7-c6. But sometimes, black delays or is not able to play c6, and white manages to advance his b pawn to b5, leaving the c7 pawn backward. In this video, we will look at this type of positions, which usually are in white's favor.

## Video 5 – Carlsbad structure – Part 2

In the fifth installment of his fantastic video series, GM Illescas continues illustrating this critical piece of chess strategy: a pawn structure that may happen in many games, and that any chess player should understand and master.

## Videos 6 and 7 – Open Files



Open files are those that are free of any pawns. They are the main highways for all major pieces, playing a significant role in the overall strategy of the game. In this lesson, GM Miguel Illescas teaches us how to handle open files. In the examples GM Miguel shows us, we can distinguish three stages:

- 1) Clearance of the open file.
- 2) Control of the file with major pieces.
- 3) Seventh rank penetration.

## Videos 8 and 9 – Doubled Pawns



Is it always bad to get doubled pawns in the opening? GM Miguel Illescas teaches us that there is a big difference between simply doubled pawns and isolated double pawns. By using mostly the Ruy Lopez pawn structure, and some brilliant examples, in this lesson, we will learn how to deal with doubled pawns.

## Video 10 – Bad placed Pieces



We don't know for sure about people, but chess pieces are not born evil! But sometimes, during a game, they can be misplaced. It's vital! Remember Tarrasch: "One badly placed piece makes your whole position bad." In this video, we will learn to distinguish when a piece is bad permanently or only temporarily. We will understand how to proceed in each situation. The video includes several exercises and analyses from games of Kasparov, Karpov, Capablanca, and even Illescas!

## Videos 11 and 12 – Pawn Structures when Preparing a Plan



In this video, we will study the importance of the pawn structure when preparing a plan. It is well known that in open positions, the most crucial thing is piece play. However, in closed or semi-closed positions, we have to work long-term plans, and it is necessary to examine the pawns structure to see what breaks are available. We need to compare the open columns for each side, and very important: to see which different pieces each side has because this will help us find the best strategical ideas.

## Videos 13, 14, 15, 16 – Liquidation into the endgame. Learn when to exchange pieces.



There are many world champions and great coaches who have pointed out the importance of studying the endgame. In this series of videos, we will learn endings from a practical point of view, reinforcing key concepts and developing our intuition. But we will also examine the critical moments when the player must decide whether it is convenient to change pieces to move on to the endgame or it is better to continue in the middle game, with examples of great champions such as Kasparov, Karpov, or Smyslov. We will get a better understanding of when to change pieces and how to play the endings, especially those that seem even or calm, and what are often the most difficult to handle. I am confident that anyone who studies these videos will be able to improve their level considerably in this essential strategic facet of the game of chess.