

Last issue, we provided an overview of blunders and discussed the Simple Type-3 Blunder, when you or your opponent captures a piece of lower value without realizing it is protected. For those that are new to this series, let's quickly mention the various types of simple blunders.

What is a Simple Blunder?

A simple blunder is a move that results in an immediate loss from your opponent's single attack.

A simple blunder can be where you:

- Type-1: Place a piece on a square where it can be taken for nothing.
- Type-2: Place your piece on a square where it could be taken with a piece of lower value.
- Type-3: Capture a piece of lower value without realizing it is protected.
- Type-4: Leave a piece on a square that is now being attacked
- Type-5: Leave a piece on a square where it can be taken by a piece of lower value

The Simple Type-4 Blunder:

The Type-4 Simple Blunder occurs when you leave a piece on a square that is being attacked. This is different from a Type-1 error where a piece is moved onto a square that is attacked. They are very similar because in both cases a piece is not protected.

However, the Simple Type-4 blunder is slightly more sophisticated than its Type-1 counterpart, and occurs often in Blitz games. Both types of blunders occur because the player is not paying attention to what the opponent can do, but Type-4 blunders occur as a result of a player not watching whether he has protected his own pieces and just leaves them to be taken by the opponent.

Figure 1 shows an example of leaving a piece unguarded and able to be taken without realizing it is not protected.

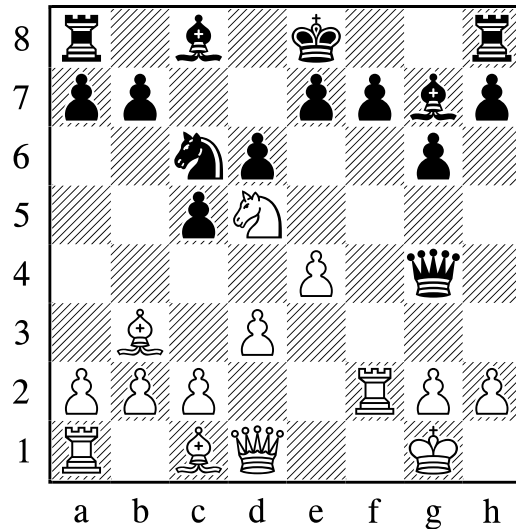


Figure 1

Example:

Black has just played 1. ...Qg4. If White plays 2. h3 to attack the Black Queen, then White has just committed a Type-4 error by leaving one of his pieces *en prise*.

Notice that Black can now win the White Queen by playing the move 2. ...Qxd1.

What do you need to do to discover a Type-3 blunder?

If you are prone to committing Type-4 errors, then, it is very important for you to check each and every piece to see if you have any unprotected pieces on the board.

Then either:

- a) protect them with another piece or pawn, or
- b) move them to a square that is already protected.

In addition, check your opponent's pieces after each move to see if they have committed a Type-4 error also.

Practice Example Diagrams:

The following diagrams give you practice in looking for Simple Type-4 blunders. In each diagram, look for an unprotected piece that can be taken.

Exercise 1 (W)

Black has just moved 1. ...Bb5. Is this a Type-4 error on Black's part?

Exercise 2 (W)

Black has just moved, 1. ...Nf5. Is this a Type-4 error on Black's part?

Exercise 3 (B)

Black moves 1...Bh7 and White castles Kingside with 2. O-O. Is this a type-4 error on White's part?

Exercise 4 (W)

Black has just moved 1. ...Rac8 attack the c4 pawn. Is this a Type-4 error?

NOTE: Answers to exercises are at the end of this article

Example Game illustrating a Simple Type-3 Blunder:

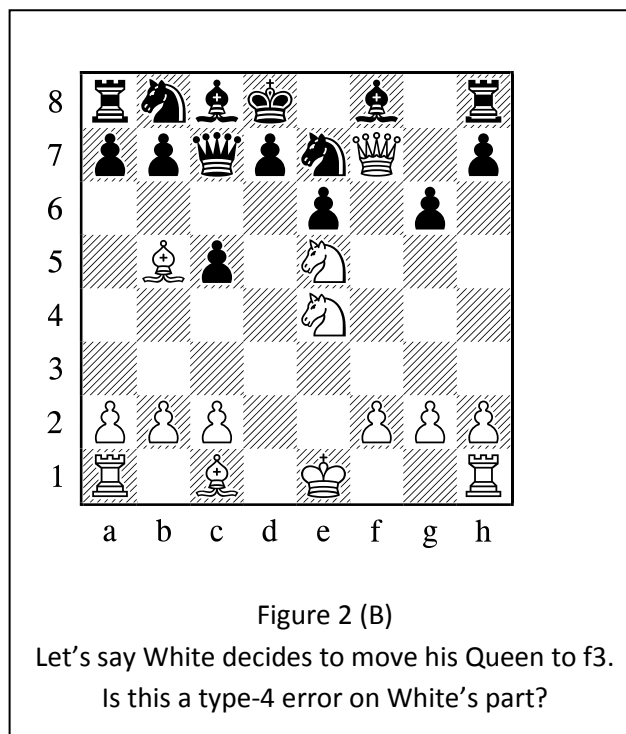
In beginner games, we again find that Simple Type-4 blunders generally occur because the player is not paying attention.

ECO B40

Saalbach, A. – Pollmacher, H

Leipzig (Germany), 1861

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. Nc3 Ne7 4. D4 f5 5. D5! Fxe4 6. Nxe4 Nxd5 7. Ne5 g6 8. Qf3 Qc7 9. Qf7+ Kd8 10. Bg5 Ne7. Now, let's say that White decided to reposition move his Queen onto f3. Would this be Type-4 error? If so, why? Does White have a better move?



How do I avoid Simple Type-4 Blunders?

The example game is an example to show you that not paying attention to loose [unprotected] pieces can lead to Type-4 blunders.

So how do we avoid making these types of mistakes?

Make sure to do the following before each and every move you make:

Ask yourself the following,

“After I make this move, are any of my pieces unprotected?”

This question is intended to help you think about the control you have over protecting your pieces.

Next time we will continue our look into the fascinating world of blunders. So, until then, play well, watch out for Simple Type-4 Blunders and ask yourself the question “**are any of my pieces unprotected**” before each and every move you make.

Answers to Example Exercises:

E1) Yes, 2.Qxd4, not 2. Qxb4, where Black would play 2. ...Nxc2+ and then win the White Queen.

E2) Yes, 2. Bxh8

E3) Yes, 2. ...Bxc2

E4) Yes, 1. Rxa6

Figure 2: Yes, if White was to move his Queen to f3, he would be committing a Type-4 error because the Knight on e5 is unprotected and can be taken by the Black Queen .

However, White has a much better move and can instead play 11. Qe8+!! Kxe8 12.Nf6+ Kd8 13.f7# [1:0]