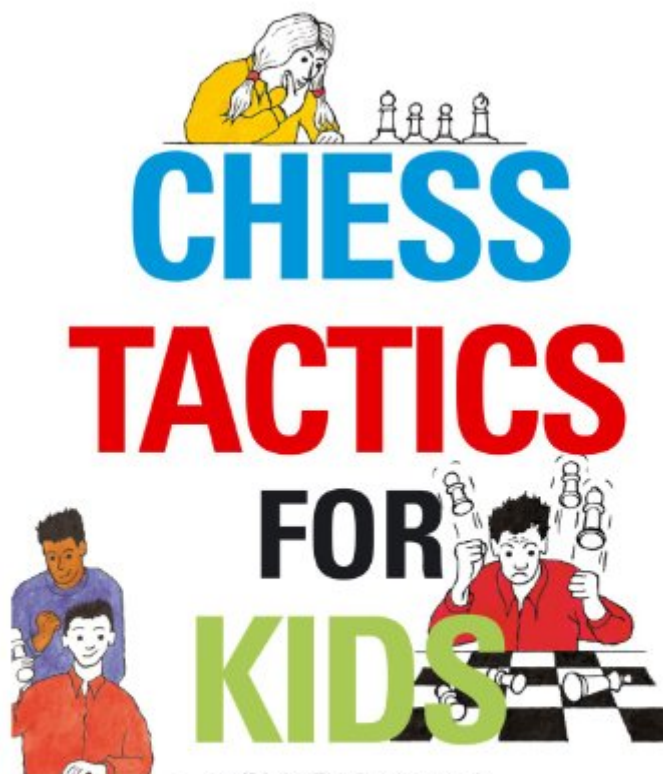


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Chess Tactics For Kids



50 Tricky Tactics to outwit
your opponent

Murray Chandler



Synopsis

"The reader will learn many tactical tricks from this book and thus surely increase his playing strength." - Jerzy Konikowski, Fernschach International Chess enthusiasts of all ages and levels will find this book an instructive delight. In a simple, easy-to-understand format it explains how to bamboozle your chess opponents using commonly occurring tactical motifs. The illustrative positions, all taken from real games, show the 50 Tricky Tactics that experienced chess masters use to win their games. Recognizing frequently-occurring tactical ideas is vital to success in chess. One of the fastest and most enjoyable ways to improve at chess is by learning these thematic manoeuvres. Beginners will benefit from the clear explanation of basic concepts, such as how to utilize a fork, pin or skewer. Advanced players will delight in the many devious middlegame tricks - some classified here for the first time - which can catch out even grandmasters. Chess Tactics for Kids makes improving easy and fun, and is full of helpful explanations on how to approach chess games with confidence - and success. "...really easy to understand. If you need a general idea of tactical examples Chandler's books will help you." - KARL Grandmaster Murray Chandler finished second in the World Cadet Championship in 1976, ahead of Garry Kasparov, whom he defeated in their individual game. He remains to this day one of the few players in the world with a 100% score against Kasparov. He was a key member of the England team that won the silver medals in Chess Olympiads three times during the 1980s, and went on to captain the team in 1994. His previous book for Gambit, How to Beat Your Dad at Chess, has proved one of the most popular chess books of recent years. "Chandler writes in a clear, intelligent style that does not talk down to kids" - Daniel Lucas, Georgia Chess "From my point of view, this is a totally successful book for the intended target audience - and that is not only due to the occasional scattered very attractive chess cartoon." - Helmut Conrady

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Customer Reviews

Wow, maybe for EXPERIENCED CHESS PLAYING KIDS. But, for a newbie like me, I was lost after the first couple of pages. It took me awhile to figure out in the FIRST EXAMPLE, with only five pieces on the board, how the rook sacrifice let the knight put the King in checkmate. It would be obvious to any player with a few months of experience but that ain't me, yet. Then, the terminology that the author thinks we are all familiar with. "Of course, you can see several tactical motifs hidden below the surface - including deflection and discovered attack..." REALLY??? I SURE MISSED IT. I'll bet that after I become more familiar with chess then this book will be super helpful.

The second I opened this book after receiving it, I hated it. Black and white pictures only, small font type, and tedious nomenclature. Did not seem like a kid book. I was on the fence about returning it, or keeping it and going through it on my own to translate it for my son, who is 8. I decided at the last minute to just show it to him to see what he would think, assuming that he'd find it boring. It turns out that he loved the book! He was driven by the fact that it had "secret moves" that he could use on other players. Without even reading the instructions, he just started setting up the board based on some of the pictures. So I helped him with some of the protocols, and we figured it out together. He spent the day going through quite a few tactics on his own. Who knew he'd like it? Still though, it doesn't feel like a kid book, and I'm wondering if the interest will last. He hasn't used it in a few days and I suspect it won't be the type of book he keeps going back to because it does seem quite tedious for a kid. So I'm giving it 4 stars because it is a great book, but really isn't super easy to get through if you're a kid.

An absolutely fantastic and thorough book. The content is well thought out and the examples are superb. Even the production quality of the book (the print, the binding) is excellent. The themes and patterns shown here are something that are applicable to almost every chess game - right from those played by beginners to the super GMs. Some reviewers have said that the kids' pictures on the cover is misleading i.e. the material is quite advanced. But then, these days the kids are soooo good ... I suspect that if the pictures were of adults instead, the kids - the target audience - might get discouraged by the wrong impression that the book is too elementary ;-). I must point out that the author takes the games played by kids pretty seriously! On the back cover it says, "Murray Chandler finished ahead of Kasparov and beat him in World Cadet Championships in 1976 ... one of the few players with 100% score against Kasparov" ... Yes, indeed. The author was 16 years old and Kasparov was 13.

Murray Chandler again proves his ability to convey great ideas in small bites! Like his other book (the famous 'How to beat your dad...'), this book gives a fifty great ideas, which you could try and remember some while playing. Best part is that how often you can read this - you don't have to read it cover to cover each time, or even sequentially. You just open it wherever it opens, and read that particular tactic! (Of course, I recommend you try and read it front-to-back, sequentially, at least once - and mark the pages that really resonate with you). I have three Gambit books now, and I think they have made this their style : each concept is given only two pages, the left and the right. First it is introduced with some text and two diagrams, and then the implementation is shown on the right page - in exactly four diagrams that could be from four different games or less. Once you get used to it, it's a great format! And like their other books, I have the same complaint here too : it would have been great if of the game referenced had been named exactly (date and players). Some of these positions seem so obvious or simplistic that you start wondering how great masters and grandmasters ended up in that situation! But still - get the book. It's better than playing with your smartphone to pass the time!

I loved this book, but I am an adult beginner. If your idea is to give a book for your "8-years-old son who has just learned how to move the pieces", it can be somewhat frustrating. Try something like "A Very First Book on Chess Tactics" or any other ultra-easy book intended to build the kid's confidence and to consolidate the understanding of the rules - and as fast as you can, come back here and buy "Chess Tactics for Kids" as the your son's second chess book (and do not stop: kasparov's book, Fischer book and so on are great).

While I prefer Susan Polgar's "Chess Tactics For Champions" for a first book on tactics, this book, in the long run, is superior to hers. Fifty tactical motifs, all very well explained by Murray Chandler. I'm around 1600 USCF and while I ended up with a 52-of-54 score on the final test (two small errors prevented elusive perfection), I wouldn't exactly call this book easy. But the bottom line is your kid -- or any beginner -- can't go wrong with this. Keep checking it out now and again after you've read it and your tactics will be solid. Some tactics are fairly deep, but overall it's a good prep course for John Nunn's "Learn Chess Tactics" and then Fred Reinfeld's awesome "1001 Winning Chess Sacrifices and Combinations," (although Reinfeld's books are in descriptive notation, they are excellent to build one's pattern recognition and horizon). Three good checkmate books (in recommended reading order) are: Chandler's misnamed "How to Beat Your Dad at Chess," "The Art of Checkmate," by Georges Renaud, and Reinfeld's "1001 Brilliant Ways to Checkmate." Don't hesitate to buy this book!

My son just recently started getting into chess. He joined the school's chess club. This is a good strong book. Everything in it is nice great for children my son is going to be 9 and he loves it.

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