

Exeter Chess Club: Algebraic and descriptive notations

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These should all represent the same short game:

1 Algebraic and descriptive notations

Here is the board, labelled using both systems of notation.

- Algebraic
- Descriptive (from Black's side)
- Descriptive (from White's side)

8	a8	b8	c8	d8	e8	f8	g8	h8
	QR8	QN8	QB8	Q8	K8	KB8	KN8	KR8
	QR1	QN1	QB1	Q1	K1	KB1	KN1	KR1
7	a7	b7	c7	d7	e7	f7	g7	h7
	QR7	QN7	QB7	Q7	K7	KB7	KN7	KR7
	QR2	QN2	QB2	Q2	K2	KB2	KN2	KR2
6	a6	b6	c6	d6	e6	f6	g6	h6
	QR6	QN6	QB6	Q6	K6	KB6	KN6	KR6
	QR3	QN3	QB3	Q3	K3	KB3	KN3	KR3
5	a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5
	QR5	QN5	QB5	Q5	K5	KB5	KN5	KR5
	QR4	QN4	QB4	Q4	K4	KB4	KN4	KR4
4	a4	b4	c4	d4	e4	f4	g4	h4
	QR4	QN4	QB4	Q4	K4	KB4	KN4	KR4
	QR5	QN5	QB5	Q5	K5	KB5	KN5	KR5
3	a3	b3	c3	d3	e3	f3	g3	h3
	QR3	QN3	QB3	Q3	K3	KB3	KN3	KR3

Short Algebraic 1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3. ♗×e5 ♗×e4 4. ♖e2 ♗f6?? 5. ♗c6+! 1-0

Long Algebraic 1. e2-e4 e7-e5 2. ♗g1-f3 ♗g8-f6 3. ♗f3×e5 ♗f6×e4 4. ♖d1-e2 ♗g8-f6?? 5. ♗e5-c6+! 1-0

Descriptive 1. P-K4 P-K4 2. N-KB3 N-KB3 3. N×P N×P 4. Q-K2 N-KB3?? 5. N-B6ch! 1-0

The +/ch means “check”; the 1-0 means “resigns”.

You may find variations on these, for example, Kt for Knight, : for a capture, and so on. I use standard short algebraic.

2 Symbols: evaluation and comment codes

Evaluations are used very often, the comments usually only in ‘languageless’ publications. Here are the most common:

2.1 Evaluations of moves

- Nf3!! Excellent move
- Nf3! Good move
- Nf3!? Interesting or tricky move
- Nf3? Bad move

- Nf3?! Dubious move but not losing
- Nf3?? Terrible move

2.2 Evaluations of positions

- +- White has a winning advantage
- +/- White has an advantage
- += White has a slight advantage
- = Level position
- =+ Black has a slight advantage
- -/+ Black has an advantage
- -+ Black has a winning advantage
- & Unclear
- &= With compensation for material