

## Lesson 9 CPR

*This lesson is a continuation of the concept taught in lesson 8: safe and unsafe moves.*

**Check:** When the King is being attacked directly by an opponent's piece we say the King is in check.

**The King can NEVER move into check.** If he does by accident then the player moves back and makes a different move (not into check).

It is considered good chess etiquette to say "check" when you move your pieces to attack the opposition King. This is counter-intuitive for the majority of beginners; "why would I tell them I'm attacking their King? I want to sneak up and capture it!" We'll come to the reason for this shortly. For now students need a go-to strategy for when their King is attacked/placed in check.

### The CPR Method

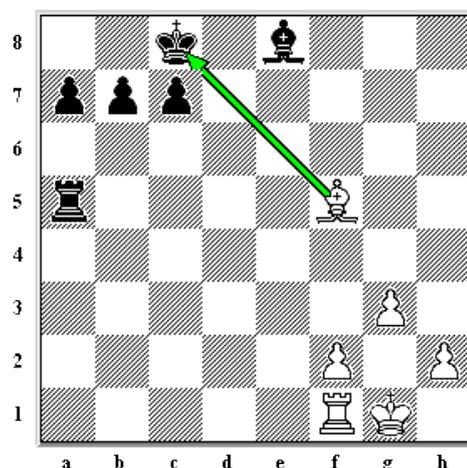
This can be more memorable for students by explaining that CPR is administered to a person whose heart stops beating. When the King is placed in check his heart stops from the "shock" of it and you must give him CPR – you must do everything you can to save him! CPR is a mnemonic for . . .

**C** – capture

**P** – protect

**R** – runaway

In the example on the right the white Bishop has just moved to f5 and placed the black King in check. The player playing with black must now go through their CPR strategy.



Strategy	Question	Answer	Options
<b>C</b>	Is it possible to <b>capture</b> the Bishop to stop the check?	Yes, the Rook on a5 can capture the Bishop on f5.	1 capture option.
<b>P</b>	Is it possible to <b>protect</b> the King by placing a piece in the way of the check (like a protective shield)?	Yes, the black Bishop on e8 can move to d7 and the King is no longer in check. [Students will also point out that the white Bishop might then capture the black Bishop on d7 and the King is in check again. This is true but the King can then simply capture the black Bishop as it is only 1 step away.]	1 protect option.
<b>R</b>	Is it possible for the King to <b>run away</b> to safety?	Yes, the King can move to b8 or d8 and it will no longer be in check. [d7 is not an option as the King would still be in check at this square.]	2 run away options.

And so the King has 4 options in total to get out of check. It is up to the student to decide on the best option. Sometimes it is obvious (like in this example – capture the Bishop with the Rook) but on other occasions it might not be so straight forward.

*OK chess players will see the capture straight away and make this move. Excellent chess players will take their time to think through the CPR strategy, weigh up their options and make the best move to win the game.*

### Fast Forward Chess

Set up the pieces as shown on the right. 10 pawns have been removed to allow the major back row pieces to develop quickly. This leads to more checks occurring quickly. Play for a set period and the person with the most checks when teacher calls time is the winner.

