

Guide to playing games on chess.com

Several games on the first day failed to start or were late starting. This may have something to do with players not knowing the full requirements for making or receiving the chess.com Challenge, which differs in one important respect with what players may be used to on Lichess. In Lichess, the Challenge is issued in the player's Profile. In chess.com the players should first be linked as **Friends** and when giving and receiving the Challenge, they should both be in "**Live chess**".

Here is the chess.com guide:

1. **Join your opponent as a "Friend"**. A simple step which makes the challenge easier. Either player can do this.
When the pairings are published, find your opponent's chess.com username. Sign into your chess.com account. Then click on your opponent's username when you know it and click on the **Add Friend** button, to send an invitation. Your opponent will need to accept this invitation, so check back later. If your opponent makes the invite, respond when you get the message to accept. The Friend link can be removed when the game has been played.
2. **On the match date**, if you are to play White, you will need to **issue a Challenge to your opponent**. Do this, say, five minutes before the due start time, as follows:
 - A. Sign into your chess.com account. Find the **Play menu** (usually down the left side bar) and click on **Play** to open it, then click on **Live chess**. *This is important to be in Live chess.*
 - B. The screen displays a large board and to the right of that several options.
 - C. Click on the button **Play a friend** - now you understand why it is important to invite the opponent as a Friend.
 - D. **Select your opponent** from the list of Friends.
 - E. Now **set up the details of the time control**:
 - i. Click on **Time**, then on the **More** button and finally **Custom**;
 - ii. Type the **minutes 60, secs 0 and inc 15** and click **OK**;
 - iii. Set the Rating dropdown to **Rated** and the Colour dropdown to **the colour you are playing** (White or Black - usually White makes the Challenge, but sometimes Black may have to do it).
 - F. When all the requirements of E. have been set, click the **Play** button and wait for your opponent to respond. *Be ready for your opponent to accept the Challenge BEFORE the due start time of the game, as the game will then be in play.*
Also important: don't start any other games against anyone else while you are waiting. Be disciplined; concentrate ONLY on the game you are preparing to play.
 - G. If your opponent does not respond by the due start time, send a message. Tell your opponent to be sure **to be in Live chess** (Play/Live chess) to receive your Challenge.
3. **Play the game.**

To receive your opponent's **Challenge** (e.g. if you are playing Black): you need just the same to **go into the Live chess area**. So sign into your chess.com account, click the **Play** menu, select **Live chess** and wait. When you receive the Challenge, *make sure it is from the opponent you are expecting to play and do not accept Challenges from any other player*, check it is set correctly (**60 0 | 15, Rated**, with the **correct Colour** and if all is correct, accept. If the details are wrong, send a **message** to your opponent.