

Back Rank Mates

Intermediate · Rating 1288-1851 · 12 positions

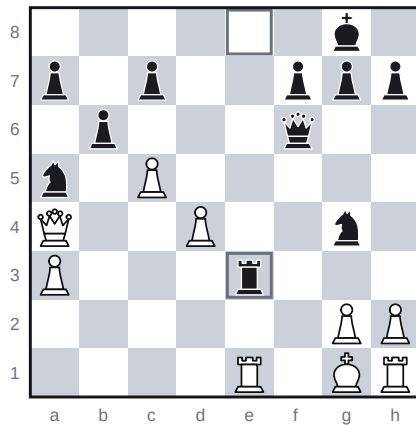
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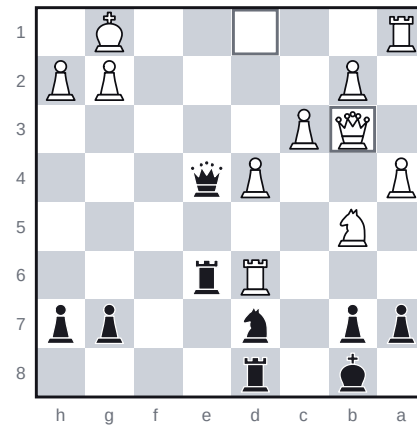
Find the best move for the side to move and write it in the box. The two outlined squares show the move just played. Answers on the last page.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12

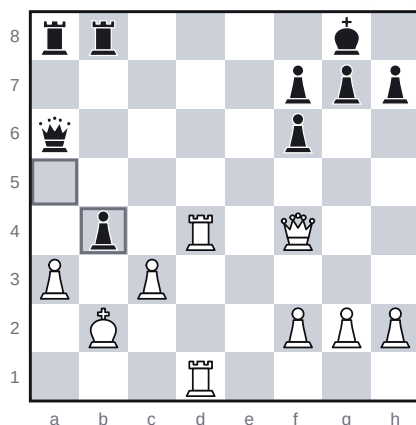
1 White to move (1288)



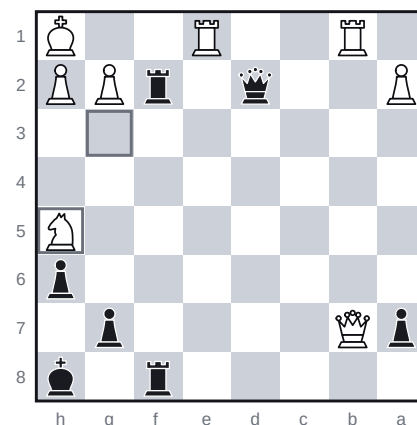
2 Black to move (1320)



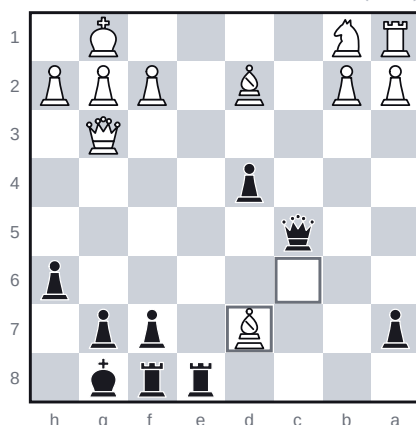
3 White to move (1372)



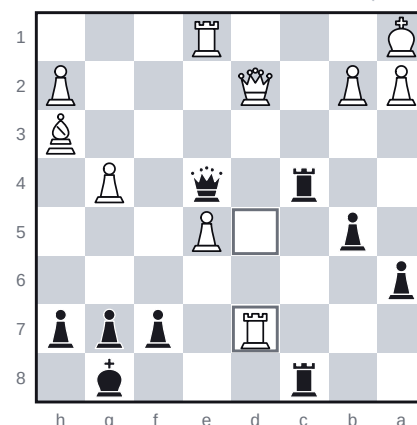
4 Black to move (1428)



5 Black to move (1463)



6 Black to move (1492)



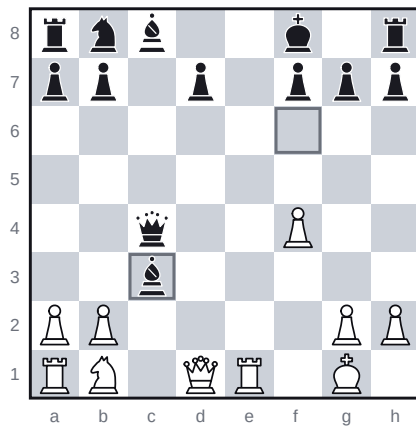
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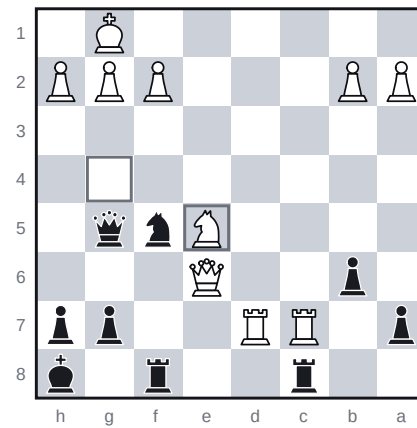
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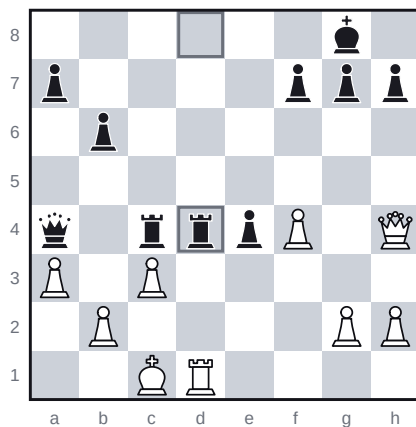
7 White to move (1550)



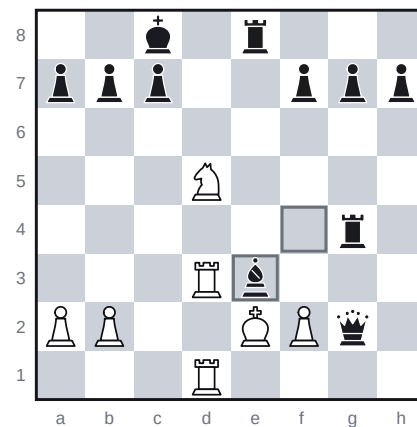
8 Black to move (1592)



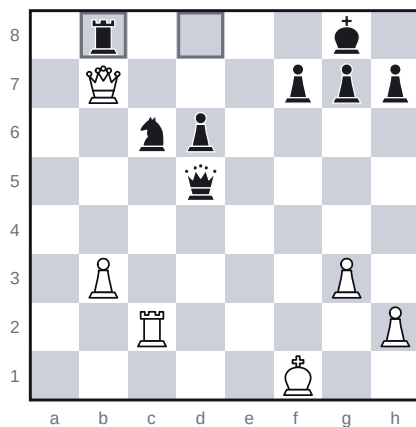
9 White to move (1636)



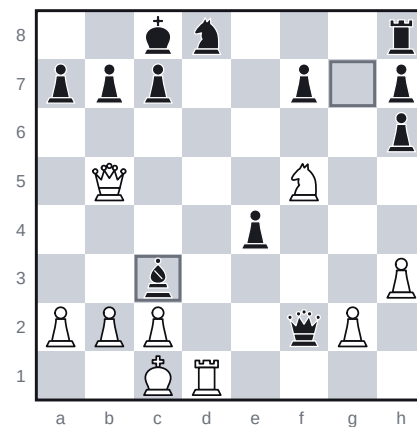
10 White to move (1696)



11 White to move (1804)



12 White to move (1851)



Answer key

Back Rank Mates · Intermediate

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What to look for

A king shut in by its own pawns with no escape square. Count the flight squares before you count the attackers.

1. **23.Qe8+ Rxe8 24.Rxe8#** #9qIS3
The queen on e8 attacks the king on g8 and the rook on e3. Mate in 2.
2. **24...Qe3+ 25.Kh1 Qe1+ 26.Rxe1 Rxe1#** #C33UG
Mate in 3.
3. **25.Qxb8+ Rxb8 26.Rd8+ Rxd8 27.Rxd8#** #8nE4r
The queen on b8 attacks the king on g8 and the rook on a8. Mate in 3.
4. **27...Qxe1+ 28.Rxe1 Rf1+ 29.Rxf1 Rxf1#** #7nd5C
The queen on e1 attacks the king on h1 and the rook on b1. Mate in 3.
5. **21...Qc1+ 22.Bxc1 Re1#** #G8RfO
The queen on c1 attacks the king on g1 and the knight on b1. Mate in 2.
6. **26...Qxe1+ 27.Qxe1 Rc1+ 28.Qxc1 Rxc1#** #5TWPd
The queen on e1 attacks the king on a1 and the queen on d2. Mate in 3.
7. **14.Qd6+ Kg8 15.Re8#** #CA1J9
The queen on d6 attacks the king on f8 and the knight on b8. Mate in 2.
8. **30...Qc1+ 31.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 32.Rd1 Rxd1#** #Qg12p
The queen on c1 attacks the king on g1 and the rook on c7. Mate in 3.
9. **29.Qd8+ Rxd8 30.Rxd8+ Qe8 31.Rxe8#** #InYjK
The queen on d8 attacks the king on g8 and the rook on d4. Mate in 3.
10. **24.Ne7+ Kb8 25.Rd8+ Rxd8 26.Rxd8#** #RbcDS
Mate in 3.
11. **41.Qxb8+ Nxb8 42.Rc8#** #9vT3F
Mate in 2.
12. **19.Qd7+ Kb8 20.Qxd8+ Rxd8 21.Rxd8#** #KKYdV
The queen on d7 attacks the king on c8 and the knight on d8. Mate in 3.

About these worksheets

This is one of three sheets for back rank mates. The Easy and Advanced sheets cover the same pattern at other rating bands. Thirteen other patterns are available the same way, including forks, pins, skewers, back rank mates, mate in one and smothered mate. All free, all with answer keys, no sign-up.

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The positions come from the free Reflex Chess trainer: 87 skills and 10,440 positions from real games, banded by rating, in a browser, offline, with no ads. Solving on paper is the half of this that builds calculation; the trainer is the half that tells you straight away whether you were right.