

Checkmate Patterns

Intermediate · Rating 1321-1865 · 12 positions

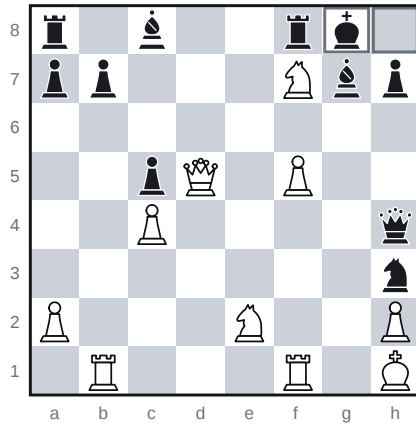
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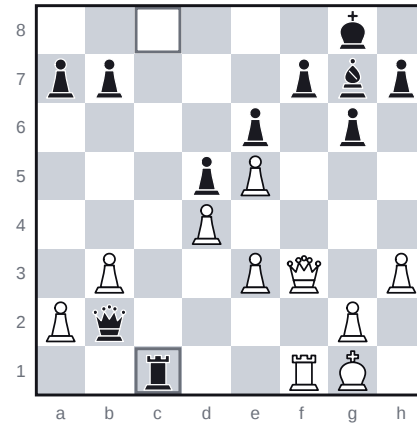
Find the best move for the side to move and write it in the box. The two outlined squares show the move just played. Answers on the last page.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12

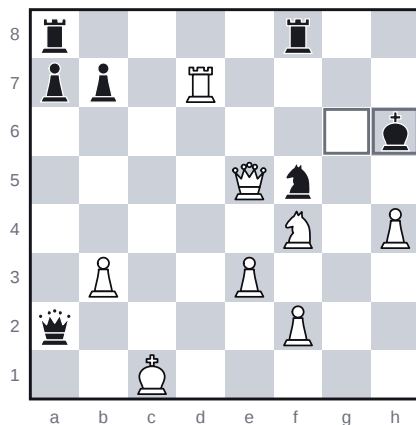
1 White to move (1321)



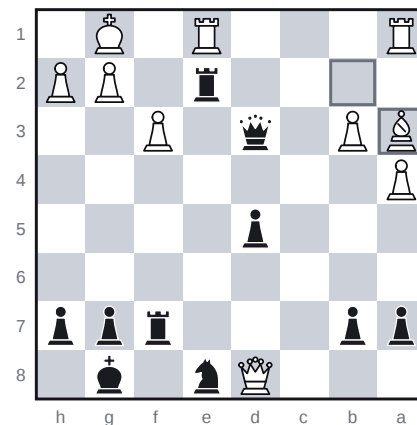
2 White to move (1348)



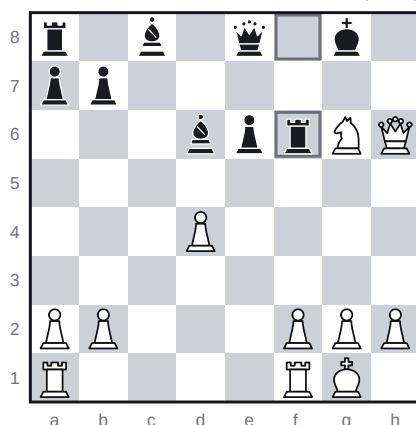
3 White to move (1385)



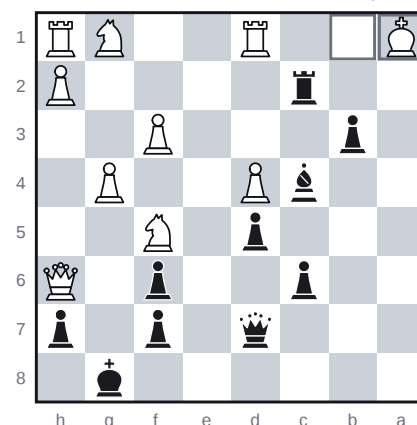
4 Black to move (1433)



5 White to move (1479)



6 Black to move (1523)



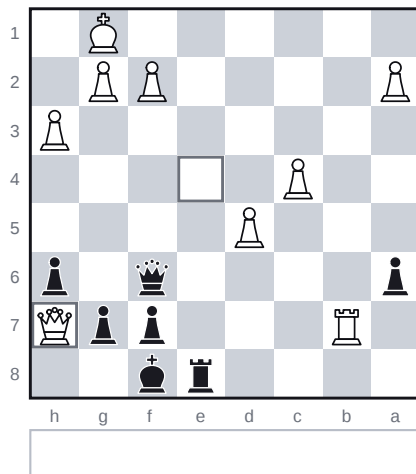
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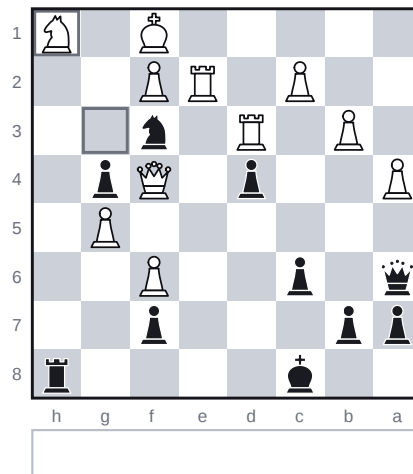
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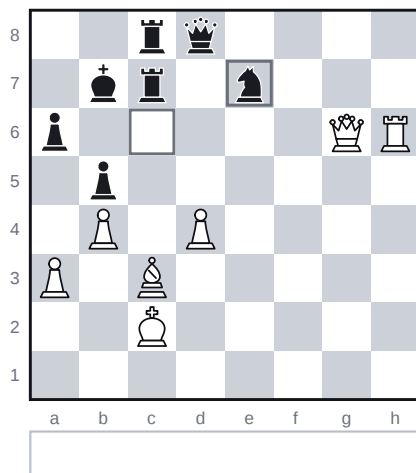
7 Black to move (1572)



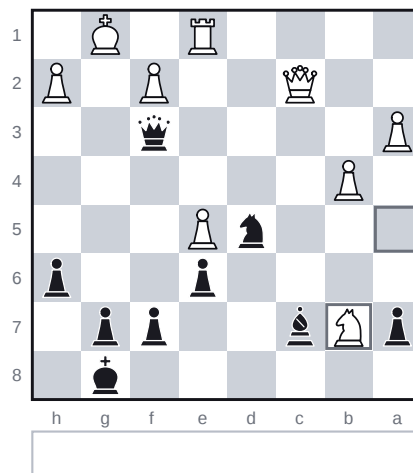
8 Black to move (1624)



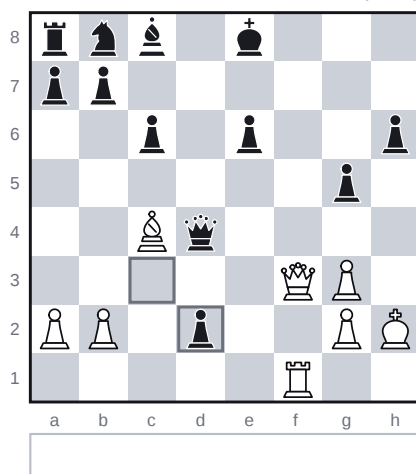
9 White to move (1664)



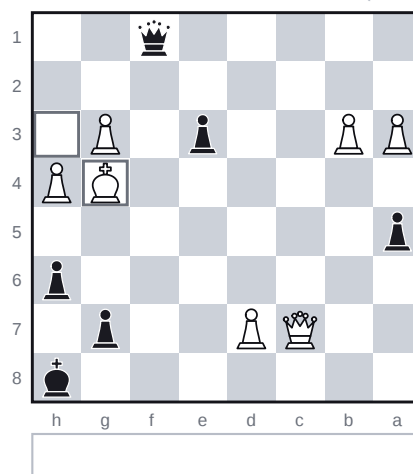
10 Black to move (1742)



11 White to move (1818)



12 Black to move (1865)



Answer key

Checkmate Patterns · Intermediate

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What to look for

Every position here is mate in two or three. The pattern is the shape the pieces make at the end, so find the mating picture first and the moves that build it second.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. 28.Nh6+ Kh8 29.Qg8+ Rxcg8 30.Nf7#
Mate in 3. | #2Fa6s |
| 2. 25.Qxf7+ Kh8 26.Qe8+ Bf8 27.Qxf8#
The queen on f7 attacks the king on g8 and the bishop on g7. Mate in 3. | #2cvX2 |
| 3. 26.Qe6+ Rf6 27.Qxf6#
The queen on e6 attacks the king on h6 and the knight on f5. Mate in 2. | #2ZSiR |
| 4. 27...Qe3+ 28.Kh1 Rxe1+ 29.Rxe1 Qxe1#
Mate in 3. | #0PvJQ |
| 5. 19.Qh8+ Kf7 20.Qh7#
The queen on h8 attacks the king on g8 and the rook on f6. Mate in 2. | #3AjUw |
| 6. 26...Qa7+ 27.Kb1 Qa2#
Mate in 2. | #1BdDR |
| 7. 31...Re1+ 32.Kh2 Qf4+ 33.g3 Qxf2#
Mate in 3. | #393NA |
| 8. 34...Rxb1+ 35.Kg2 Rg1#
Mate in 2. | #2Xton |
| 9. 36.Qxa6+ Kb8 37.Rb6+ Rb7 38.Rxb7#
Mate in 3. | #1GxW3 |
| 10. 25...Nf4 26.Qe4 Nh3+ 27.Kf1 Qxf2#
Mate in 3. | #14m3U |
| 11. 20.Qf8+ Kd7 21.Rf7#
Mate in 2. | #8QyJW |
| 12. 48...h5+ 49.Kg5 Qf6+ 50.Kxh5 Qf5#
Mate in 3. | #4eR2R |

About these worksheets

This is one of three sheets for checkmate patterns. 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.