

Six position chess diagnostic

Find one pattern to practise next. This sampler covers hanging pieces, a knight fork, a pin, back-rank mate, stalemate and a pawn promotion.

Use a board or the printed diagrams. No app, installation or account is required. Work at your own pace, alone or with a partner. White is at the bottom of every diagram.

For each position

1. Read whose turn it is and answer the exact question.
2. Write a move and explain why it works.
3. Check the separate answer key, then choose a habit to practise.

These are exercise questions, not a rating test. The positions were constructed here, not copied from a puzzle collection. Familiar patterns may have occurred before.

What was checked

All six starting positions and every supplied move were checked with python-chess. Mate, stalemate, pins and stated forced replies were verified by legal-move tests. No engine rating, unique-best-move claim or proof of historical reachability is supplied.

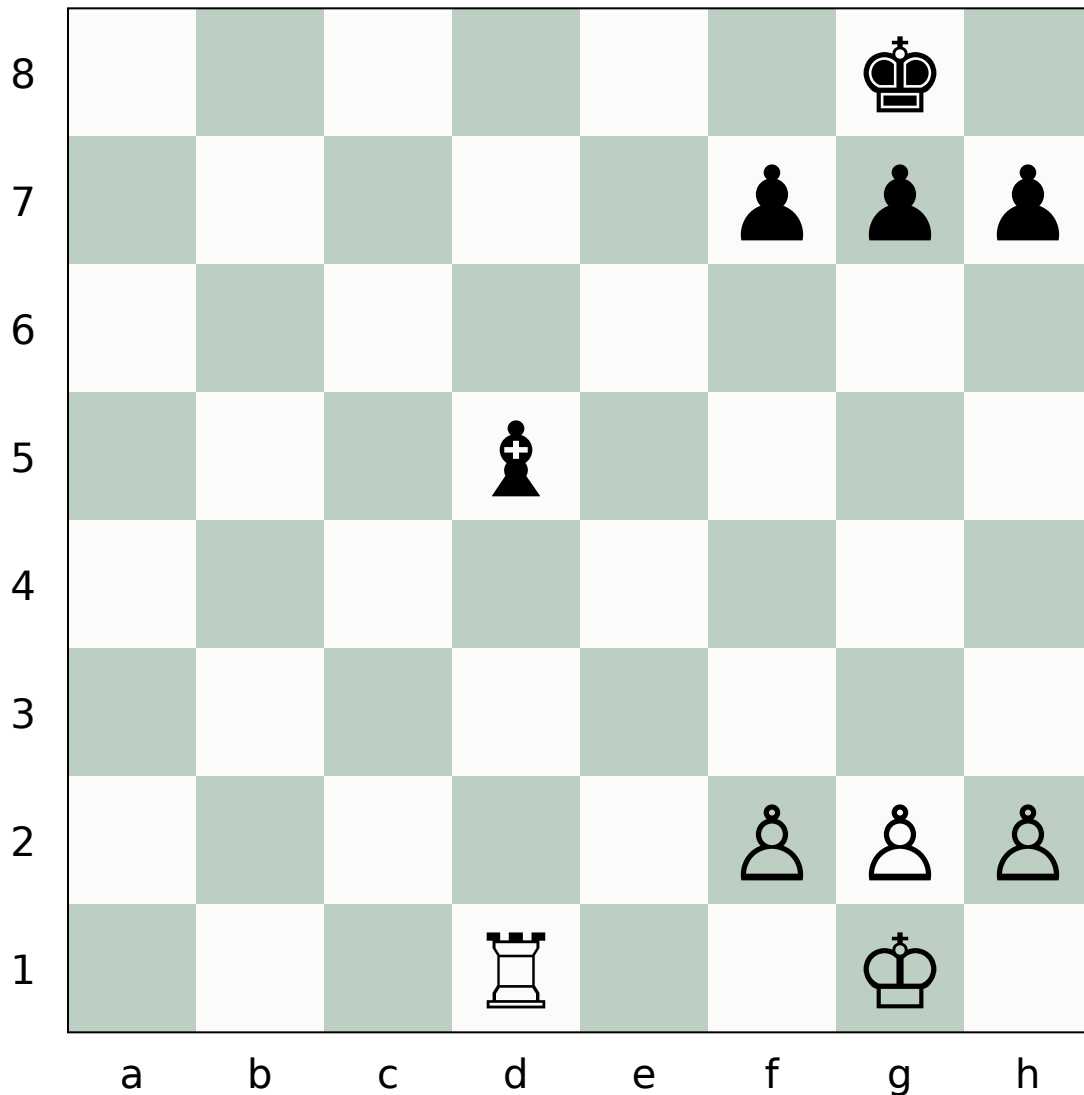
Optional Pawnpetal use

Its [official App Store listing](#) advertises PGN import. These setup positions and variations have not been device-tested. Import support may differ; use paper if needed. See README.txt for source links.

1 Hanging piece

White to move

Which black piece is undefended? Capture it with the rook. Can Black immediately recapture your rook?



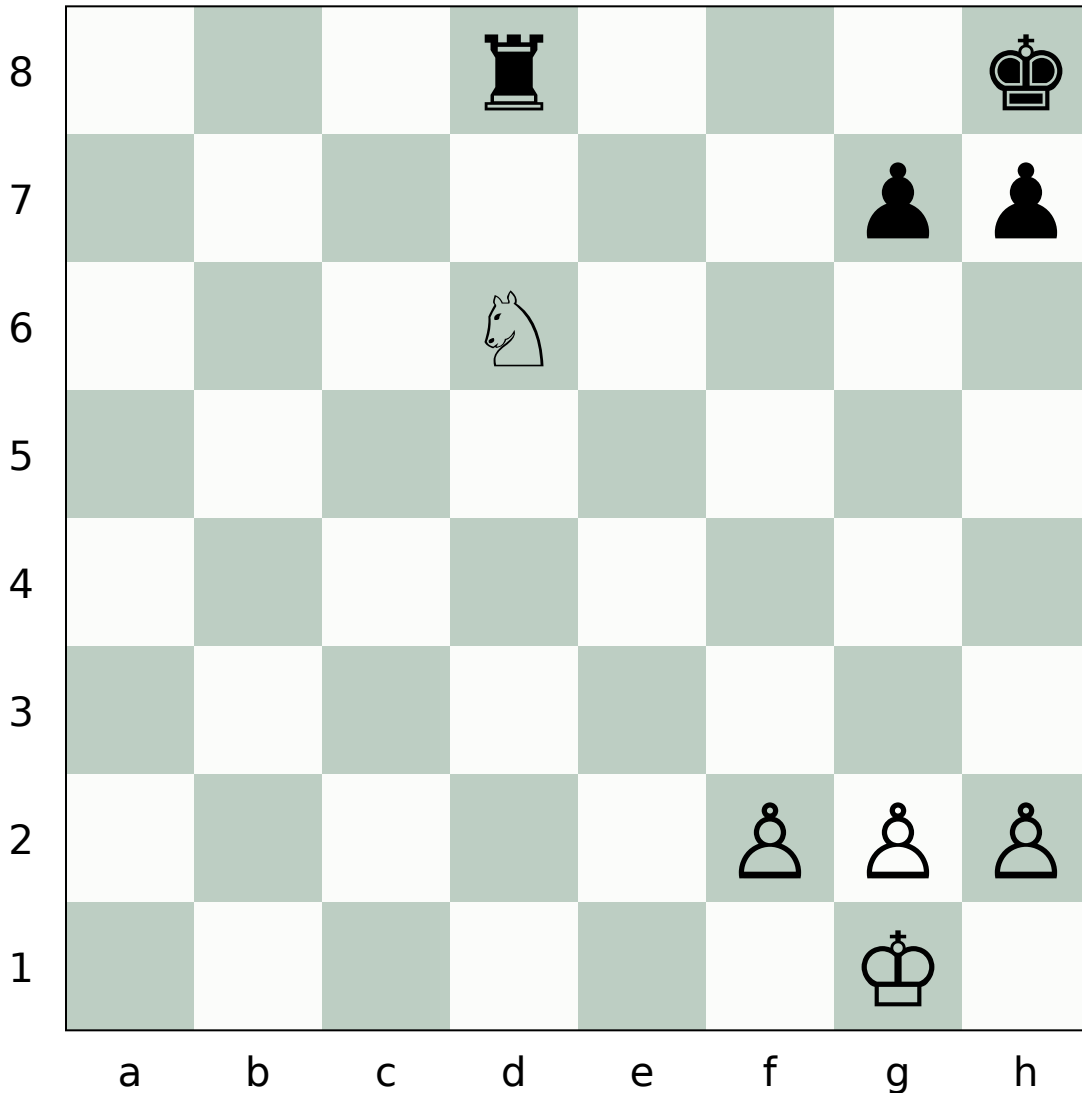
My move or answer

Why it works

2 Knight fork

White to move

Move the knight so it checks the king and attacks the rook. Find Black's only legal reply, then capture the rook.



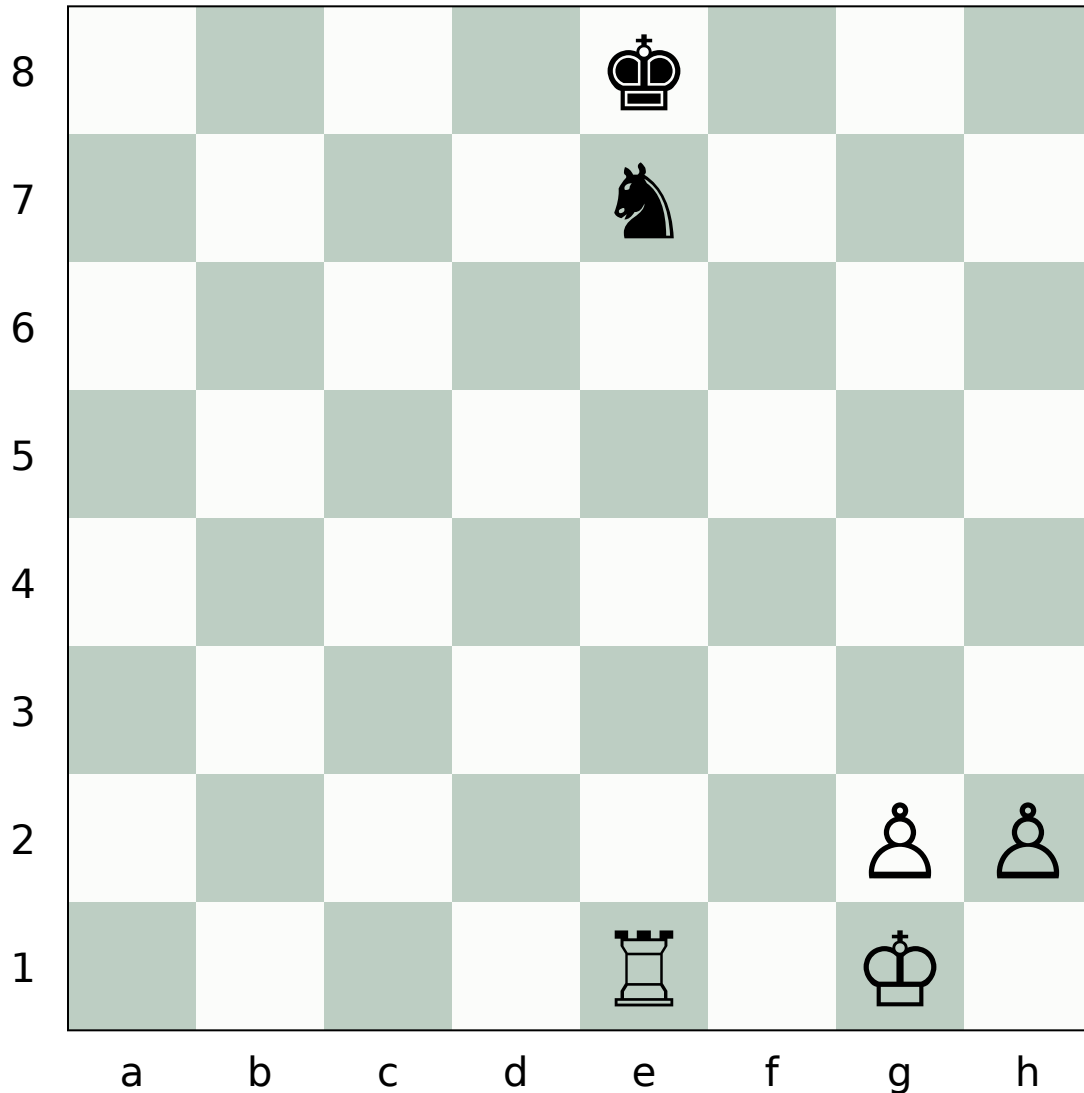
My move or answer

Why it works

3 Absolute pin

Black to move

Can Black legally play ...Nc8? Explain what would happen to the king. Name one legal Black move instead.



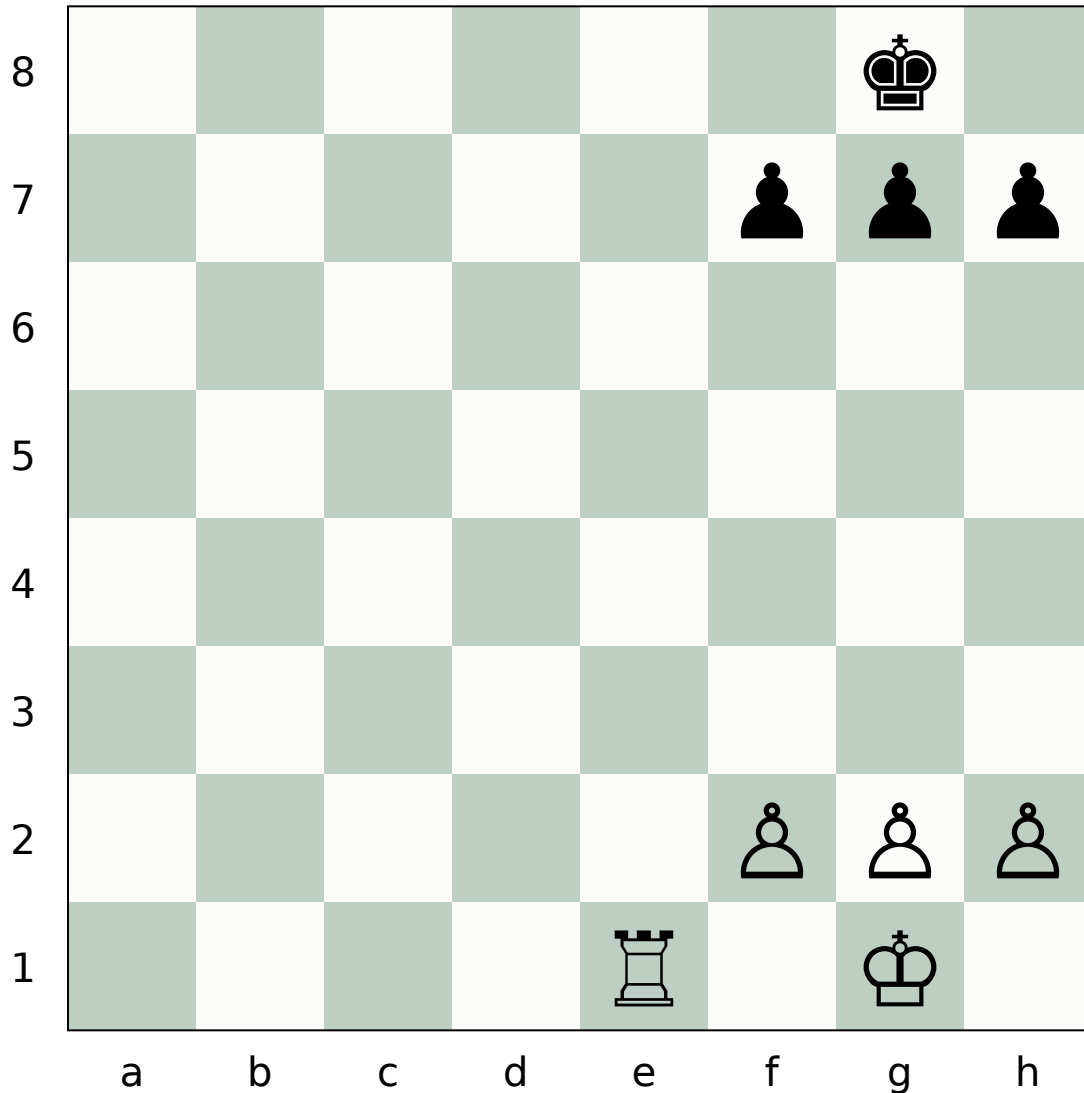
My move or answer

Why it works

4 Back rank mate

White to move

Give checkmate in one move with the rook. Explain why Black cannot capture, block or escape the check.



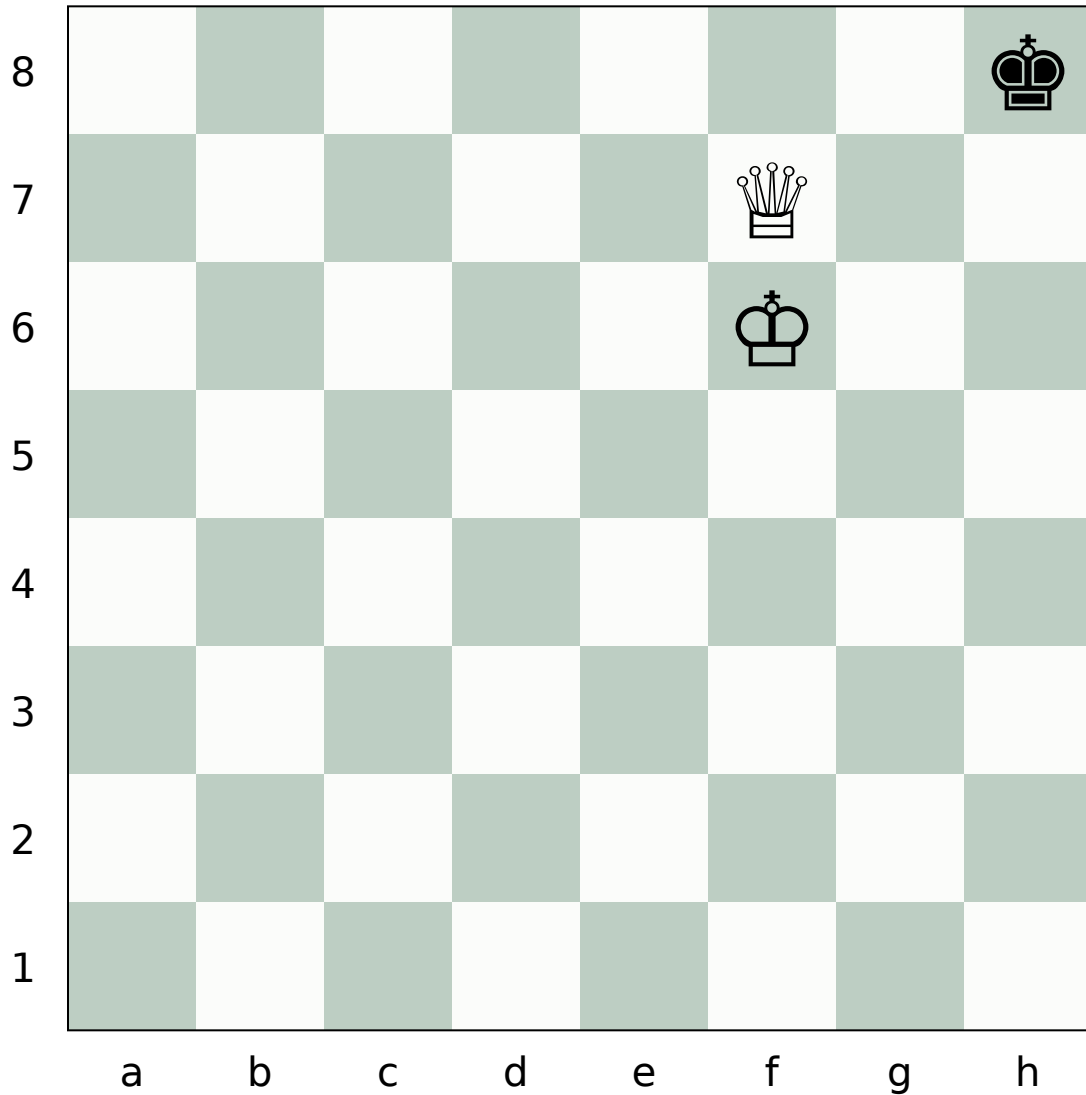
My move or answer

Why it works

5 Stalemate trap

White to move

Compare 1. Qg6 and 1. Qg7. Which move stalemates Black, and which move checkmates? Check every king escape.



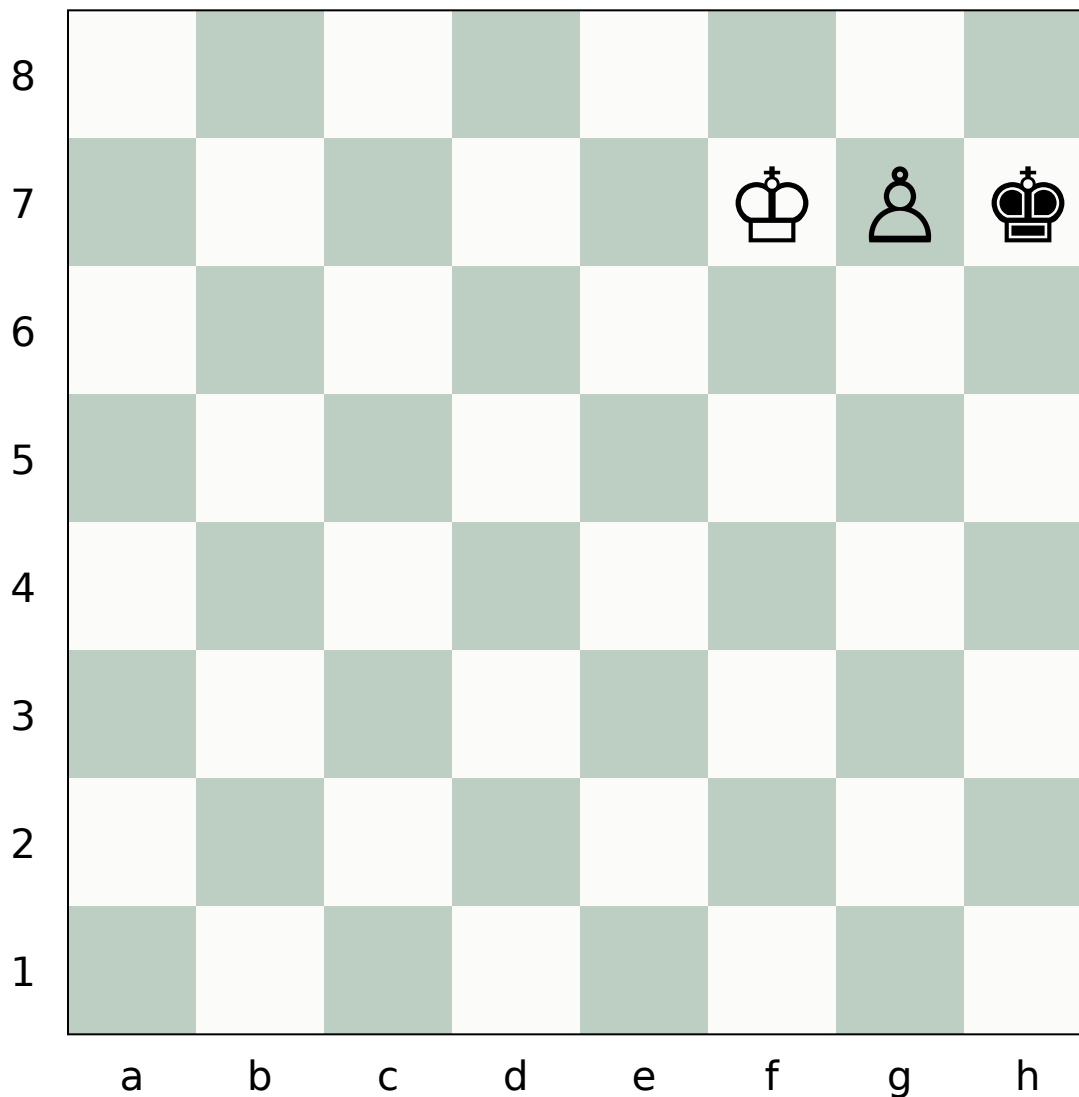
My move or answer

Why it works

6 Protected promotion

White to move

Promote the pawn to a queen. Can Black capture the new queen? Name Black's legal reply to the check.



My move or answer

Why it works