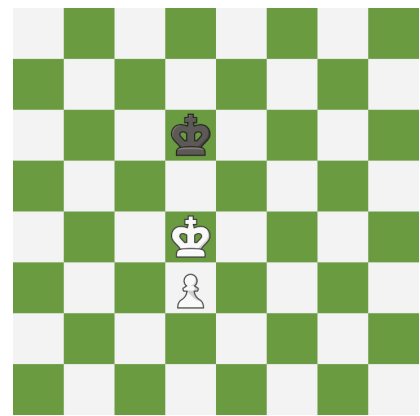


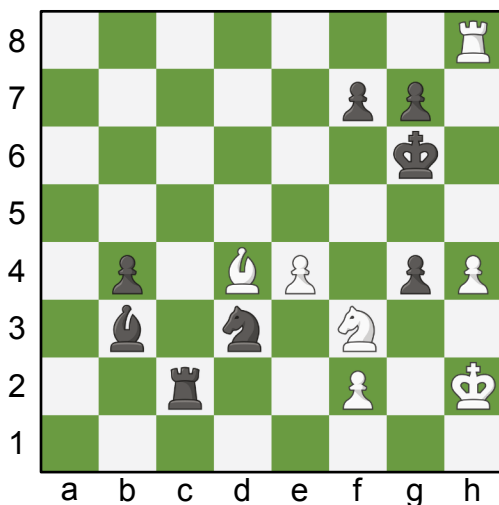
25. King Opposition

King opposition is a strategic concept in chess endgames where two kings directly face each other with only one square between them. The player who doesn't have to move has the advantage, as their king restricts the opponent's king's movements. This principle is crucial in pawn endgames, where gaining opposition can help a king penetrate the enemy position or support the promotion of a pawn.

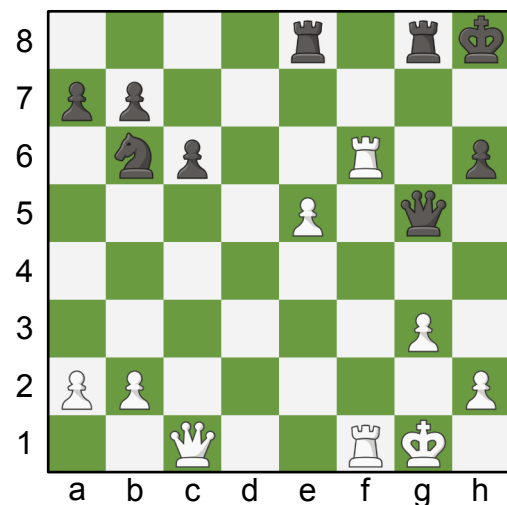


Challenge Puzzles

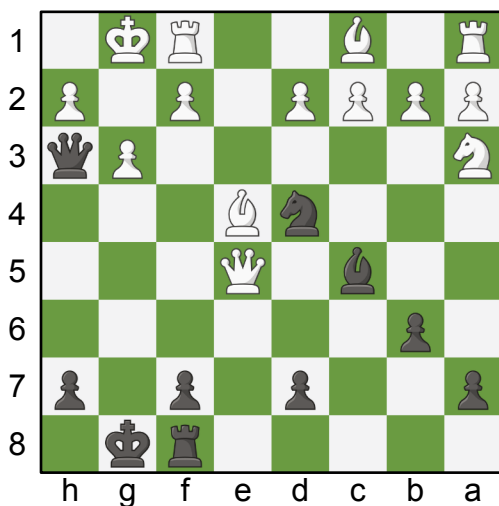
① White to play - mate in 1.



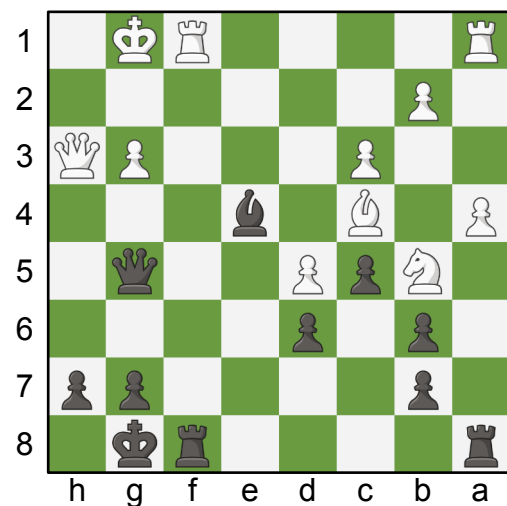
② White to play - mate in 2.



③ Black to play - mate in 2.


















④ Black to play - mate in 4.



Hints.

- ① Use a pawn.
- ② Start with a rook.
- ③ Start with the knight.
- ④ Start the queen.

Answers.

- ① 1.  h5#
- ② 1.  xh6+  xh6 2.  xh6# or (1... Kg7 2.  xh6#)
- ③ 1.  d7+ 2.  a8  xc8#
- ④ 1.  e3+ 2.  h2  f2+ 3.  g2  h6+ 4.  g1  xg2#

