

8. Scholar's Mate

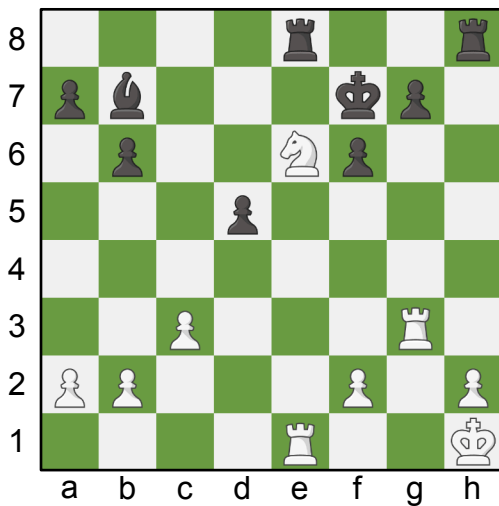
Scholar's Mate is a checkmating pattern that allows white to checkmate black in only 4 moves if black defends incorrectly.

- 1. ♖e4 ♜e5 2. ♘c4 ♞c6 3. ♔h5
- From here, white is threatening mate with ♕f7.
- Black can defend with moves such as ♚e7, ♚f6, or ♟g6
- Scholar's mate fails against strong opponents.

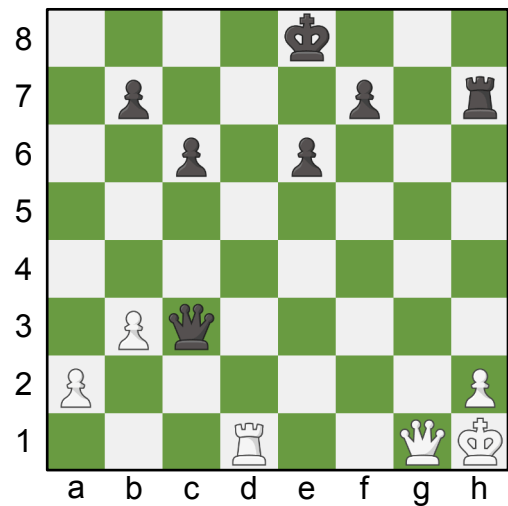


Challenge Puzzles

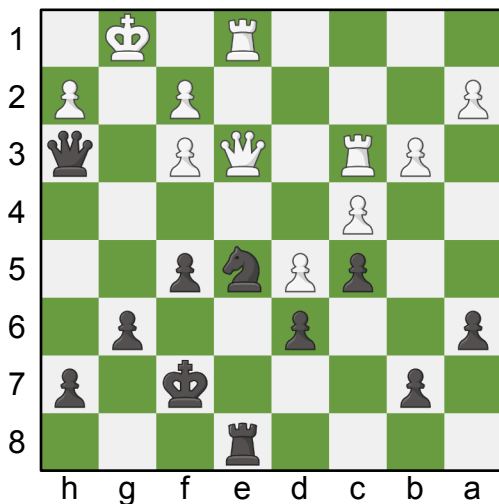
① White to play - mate in 1.



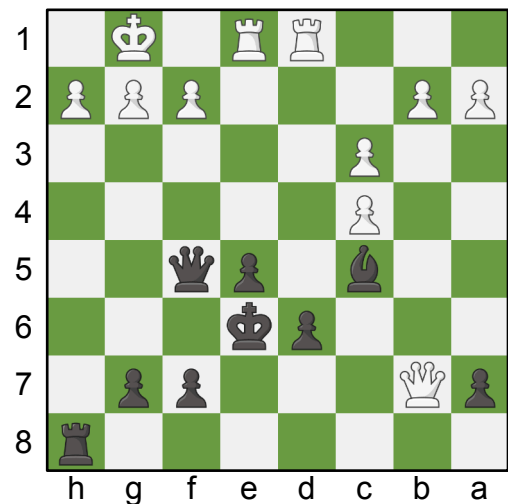
② White to play - mate in 2.



③ Black to play - mate in 2.



④ Black to play - mate in 3.



Hints.

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

Answers.

- ① 1. ♖xg7# 1-0
- ② 1. ♔g8+ ♚e7 2. ♔d8# 1-0
- ③ 1. ♞xf3 Then 2. ♔h1 ♚xh2# or 2. ♔xf3 ♚xe8# 0-1
- ④ 1. ... ♚xf2+ 2. ♔h1 ♚xh2+ K3. ♖xh2 ♔h4# 0-1

