

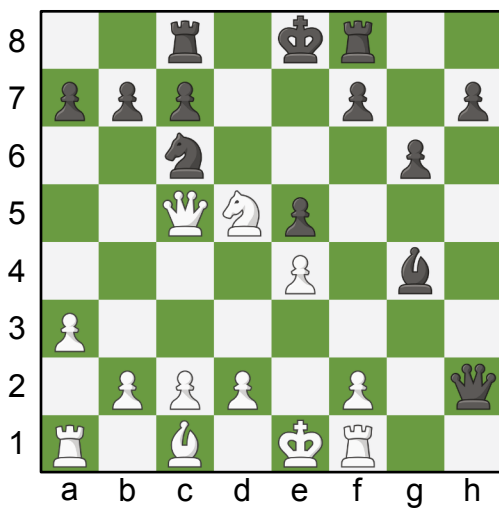
31. Zugzwang

Zugzwang is a German word meaning “compulsion to move”. It refers to the situation where a player is put at a disadvantage because they are forced to make a move, and any move they make will weaken their position.

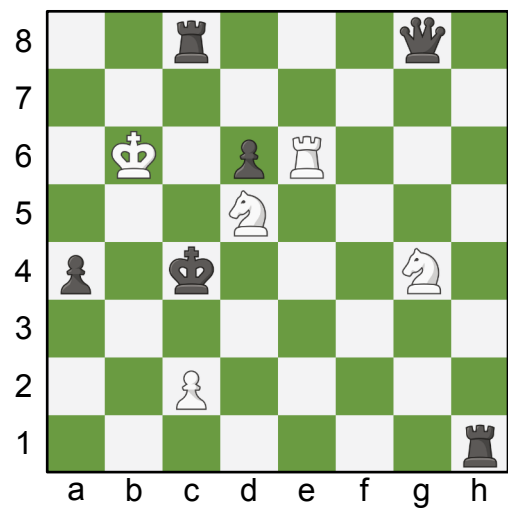
Zugzwang highlights the importance of timing and the subtle nuances of positional play, as sometimes the best strategy would be to avoid making a move at all if it were allowed. It's a powerful tool in a chess player's arsenal, used to exploit the opponent's limited options and create winning opportunities.

Challenge Puzzles

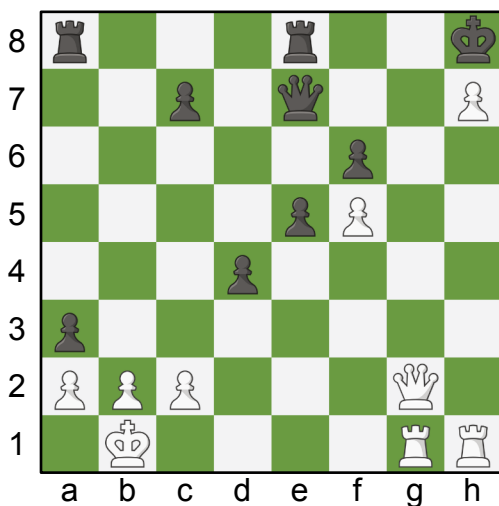
① White to play - mate in 2.



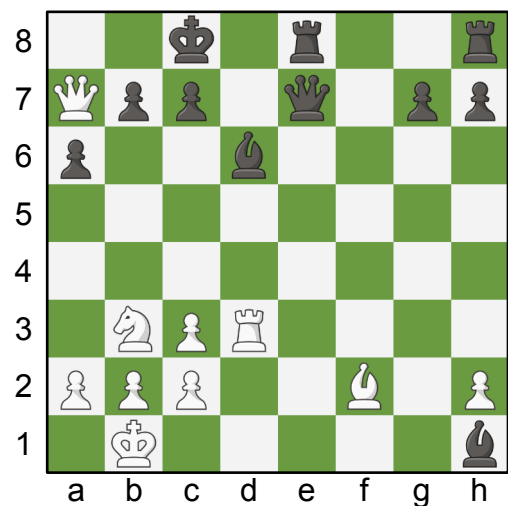
② White to play - mate in 2.



③ White to play - mate in 2.

















④ White to play - mate in 3.



Hints.

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

Answers.

- ① 1. f6+ d8 2. xf8#
- ② 1. e4+ xd5 2. f6#
- ③ 1. g8+ xg8 2. hxg8= #
- ④ 1. a8+ d7 2. c5+ c6 3. xb7#

