

5.

SKEWERS

LEARN MORE

“Between [a] skewer and double attack, you have some of the most basic but very deadly means of creating damage to your opponent and reaching the desired result.”

—Garry Kasparov

SUBCHAPTERS

- X-Ray Attack
- Classical Skewer
- Skewers in Endgames
- Kasparov vs Beliavsky, 1992
- Understanding Geometry
- Challenge: A Skewer Study

- Chess has a rich vocabulary in many languages, and English chess lingo contains many terms from French, Russian, and German. Considering the popularity of chess in the Russian-speaking world, it’s no surprise that Russian has many specific chess terms that don’t translate so easily into English. Garry says the Russian “линейный удар” (“lineynyy udar”) for x-ray, or skewer, could be literally translated as “linear impact!”
- A “poisoned” pawn or piece is one that looks like it can be won freely, but in fact cannot be captured without suffering consequences. There is even a famous line in Garry’s beloved Najdorf Sicilian Defense called the “Poisoned Pawn Variation,” popularized by American World Champion Bobby Fischer.

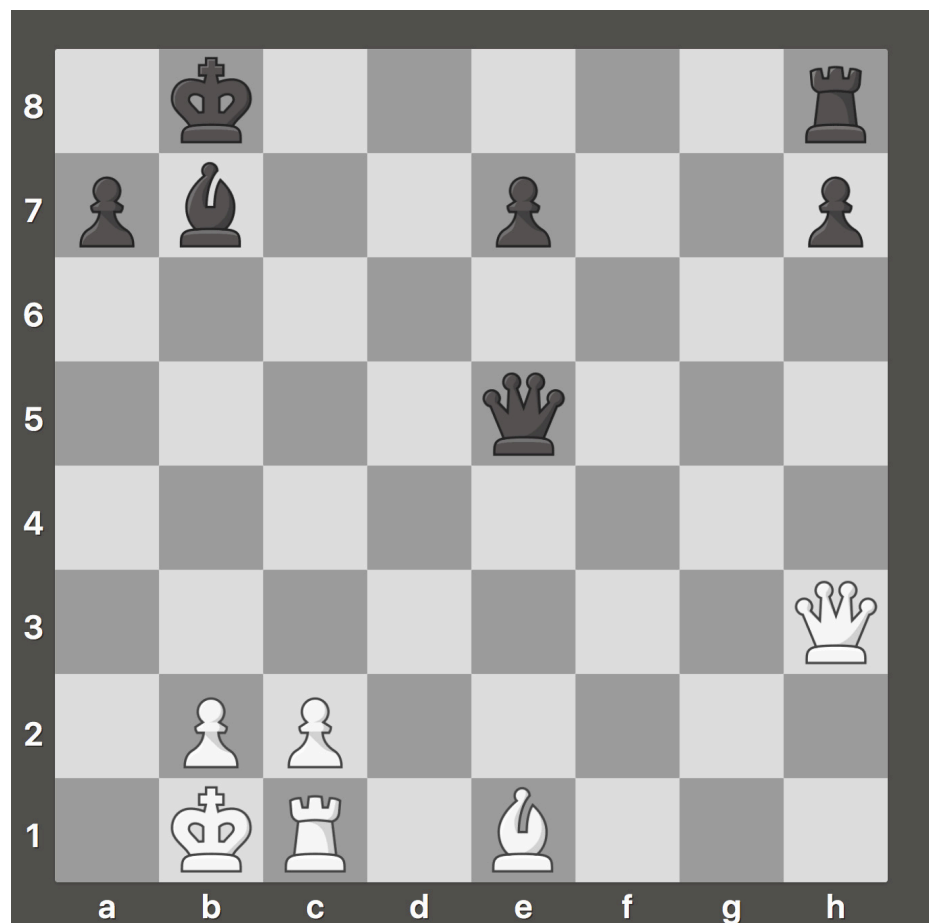
5.

SKEWERS

ADDITIONAL POSITIONS

Skewers, also called “x-ray attacks” are performed on a line with a queen, rook, or bishop. The more valuable piece on the line is attacked and when it moves aside, the piece behind it is lost. Garry suggests to think of it as the opposite of a pin, which is when the less valuable target is in front.

White to move and find two winning tactics. One is a pin, not a skewer.



Both 1. Bc3 (skewering the queen and rook) and 1. Bg3 (a close cousin of skewer, a “pin”) work. 1. Bg3 is better since you will win the queen instead of a lesser piece.

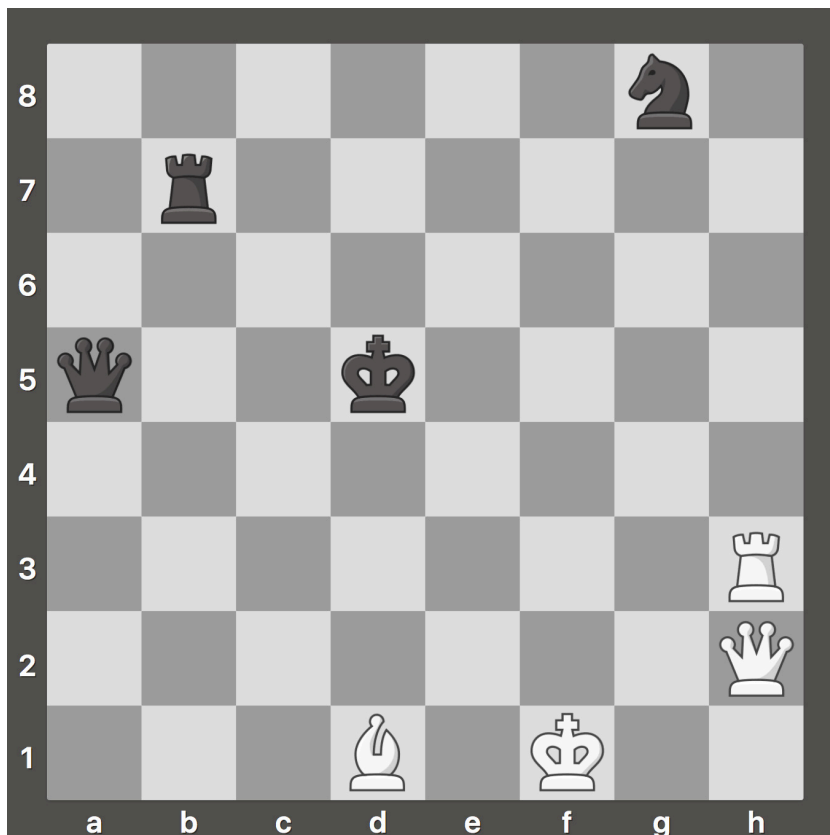
“You have to look for the maximum outcome,” Garry reminds.

5. **SKEWERS**

PRACTICE POSITIONS

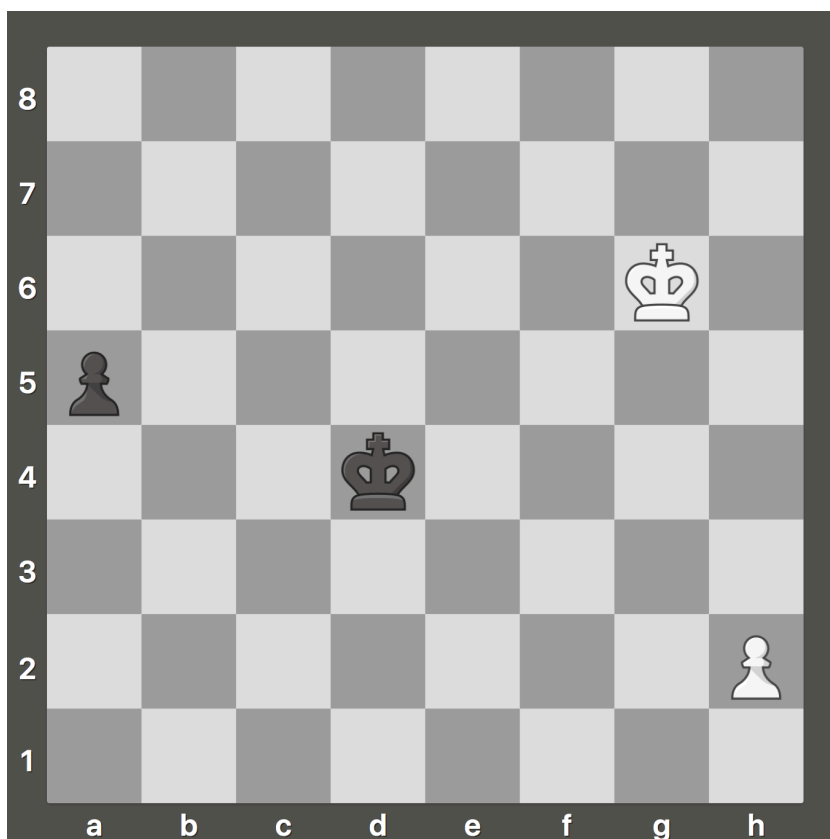
Now you try!

1.)



White to move: Find five skewers

2.)

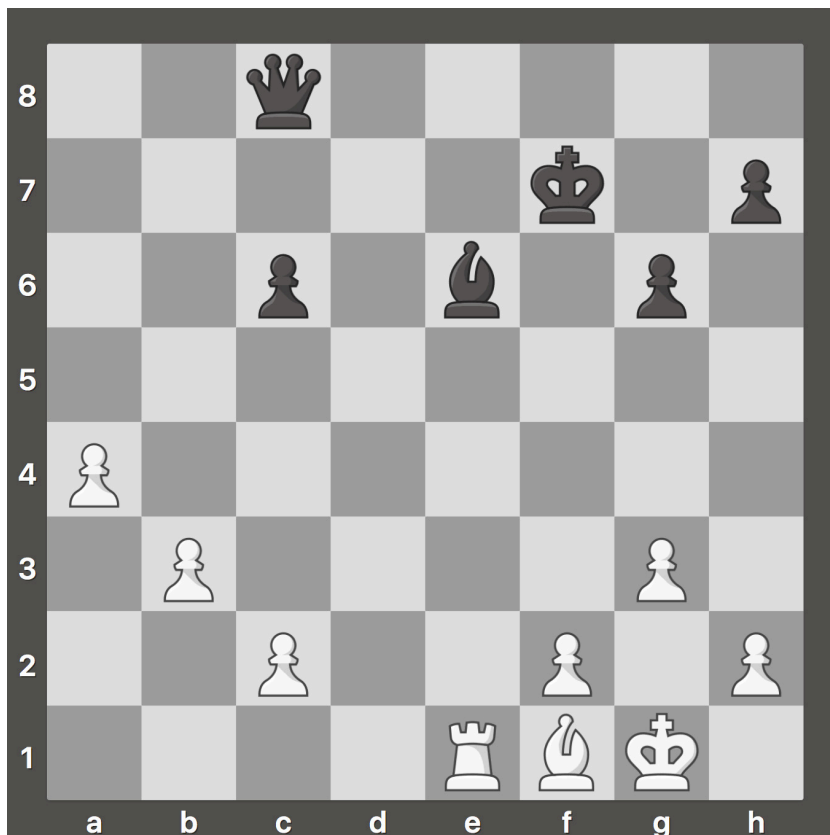


White to move

5. **SKEWERS**

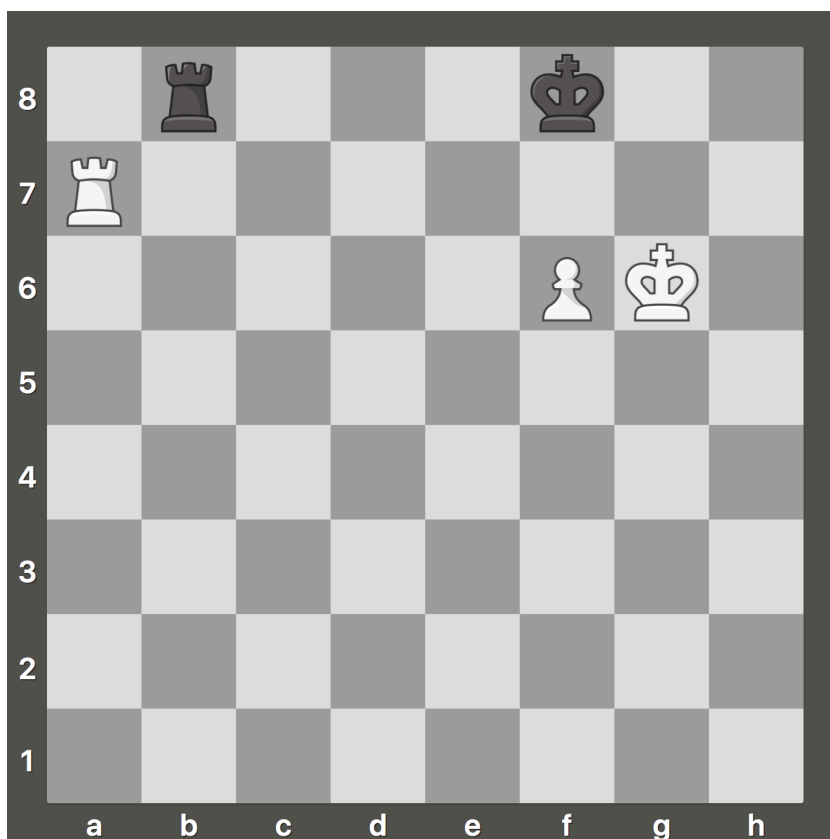
PRACTICE POSITIONS

3.)



White to move

4.)



White to move

5.

NOTES