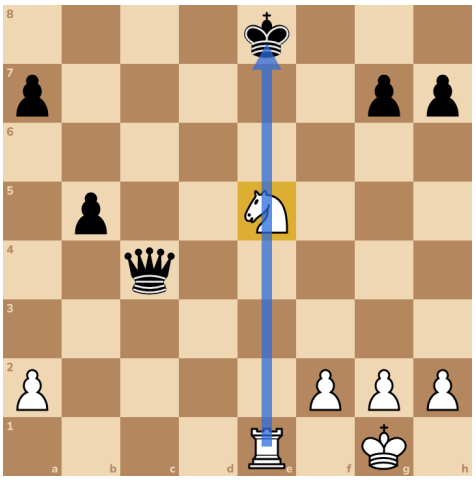
My Chess Family

What is a discovered check?

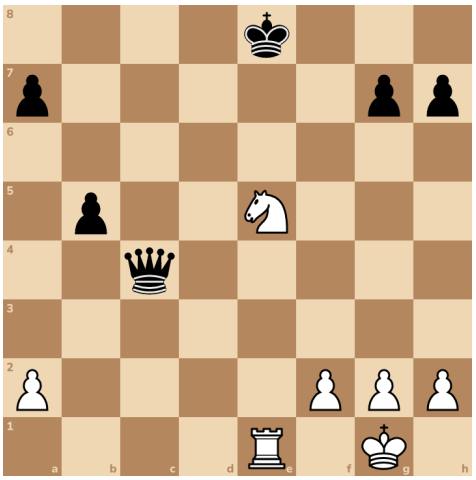
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

Discovered check

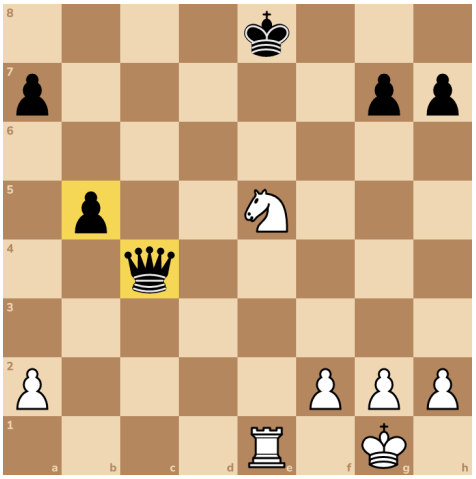
Here's a new position. Your knight stands in front of your rook. If the knight moves away, the rook checks the king.



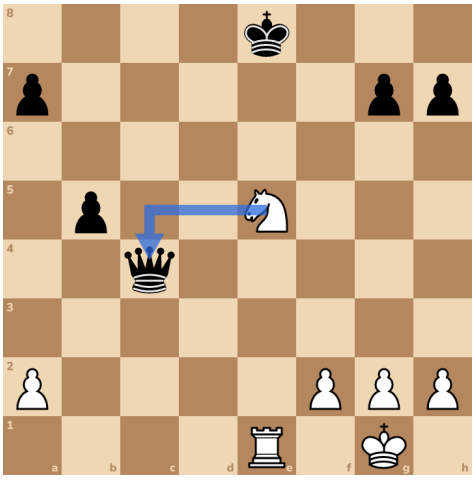
That's called a discovered check. The best part is that the knight can go anywhere, even to a guarded square.



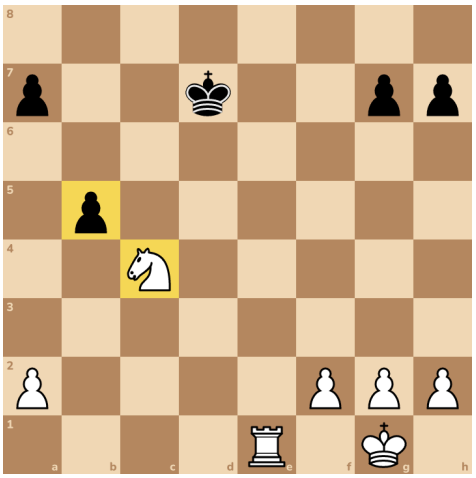
Look at Black's queen on c4. The pawn on b5 guards her. Normally, taking her would cost your knight.



Try it 1. Take the queen with your knight. It's a discovered check!

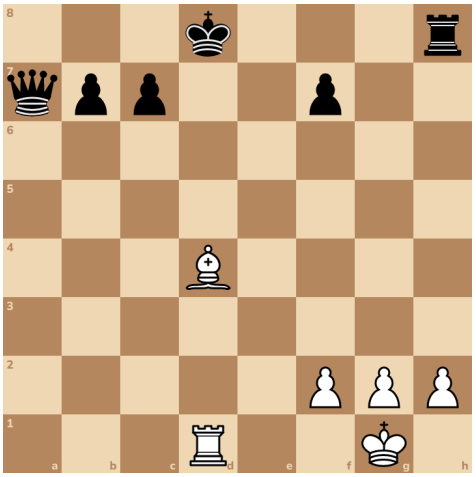


Black had to answer the check first, so he couldn't take your knight. But the pawn on b5 still attacks it.

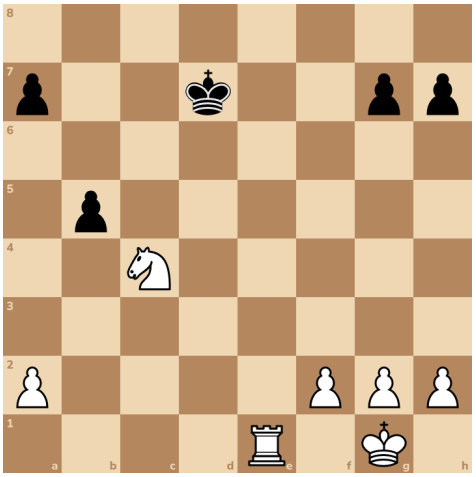


You won Black's queen and kept your knight.

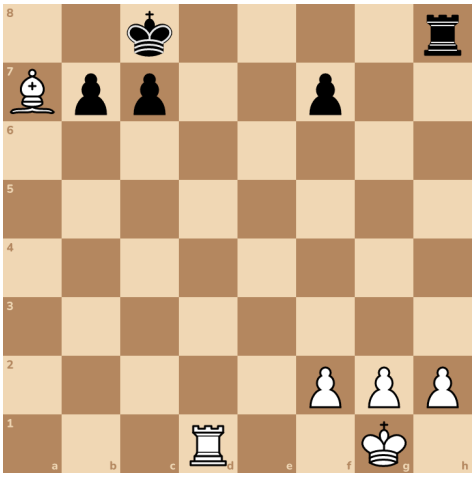
Try it 3. Here's a new position. Move your bishop to give a discovered check, and grab the biggest piece you can!



Try it 2. It's your turn again. Jump your knight to a safe square!

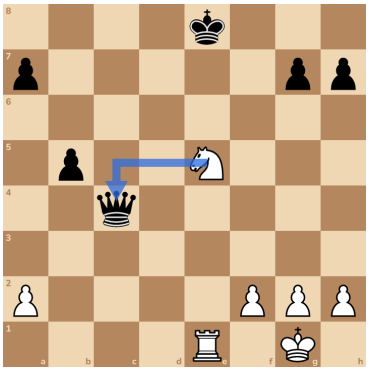


Brilliant! With a discovered check, the piece that moves is free to grab anything.

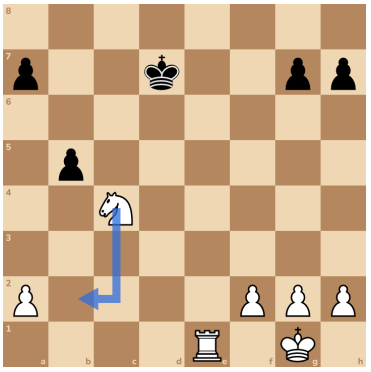


Answers

1. Nxc4+



2. Nb2 or Ne5+ or Ne3 or Nd2 or Na5 or Na3



3. Bxa7+

