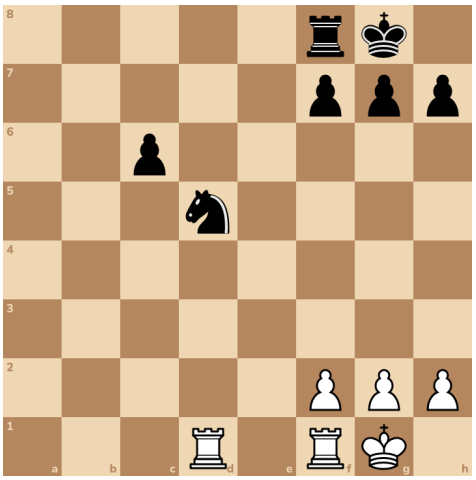
My Chess Family

Good and bad trades in chess

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

Good trades

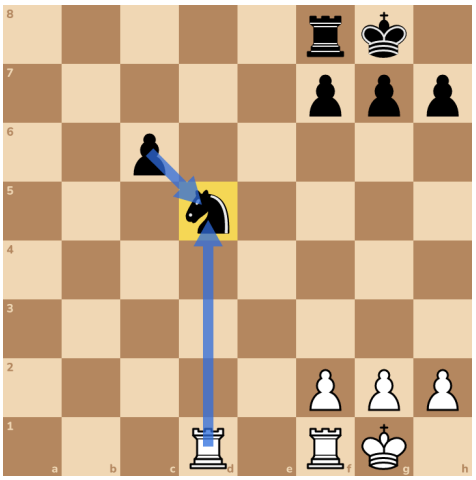
When you take a piece and the other side takes back, that's a trade. Count the points to see who did better.



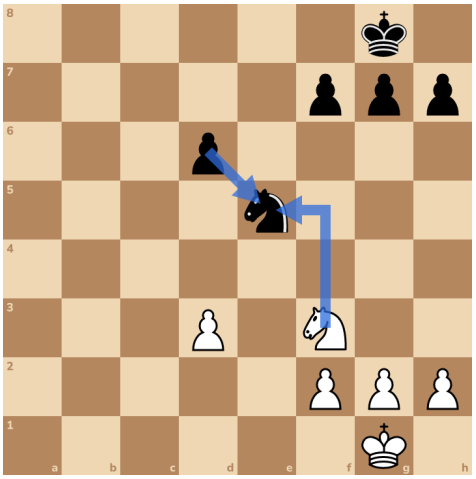
Try it 1. You'd win a knight, worth 3, and lose a rook, worth 5. Is that a good trade?

A: Yes **B: No**

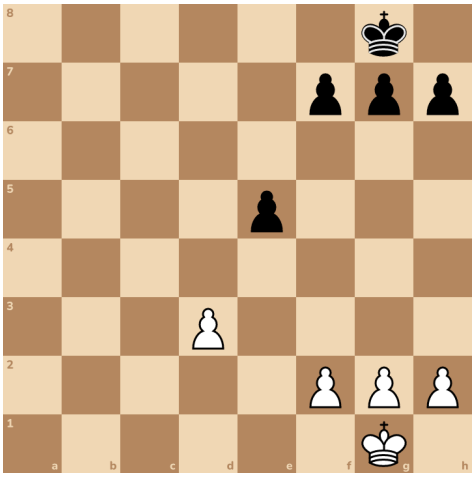
Your rook could take the knight. But the pawn on c6 guards it, and would take your rook back.



Here's a new position. A knight for a knight is 3 for 3. That's a fair swap, called an even trade.



After the swap, both sides still have a king and four pawns. Nobody is ahead.



Try it 2. Your bishop takes a knight, and a pawn takes your bishop back. Who got more points?

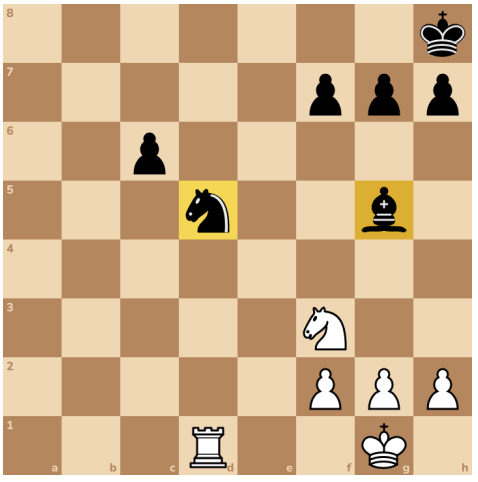
A: You **B: Them** **C: Nobody**

Try it 3. Your knight takes a rook, and then your knight is taken. Was that a good trade?

A: Yes **B: No**

The best trade of all is a free piece, one that nobody guards. You get points and give nothing.

Try it 4. Here's a new position. Don't take the guarded knight. Find the free piece and take it!



Free! 3 points for nothing. Before you take, always check who can take back.

Answers

1. B: No

A bad trade! You'd give 5 points to get 3, and fall behind. Only trade when you get back as much as you give, or more.

2. C: Nobody

3. A: Yes

Points are a guide, not the whole story. Before any trade, also look at the board. Does it leave your king safe? Do you still have pieces to win with?

4. Nxg5

