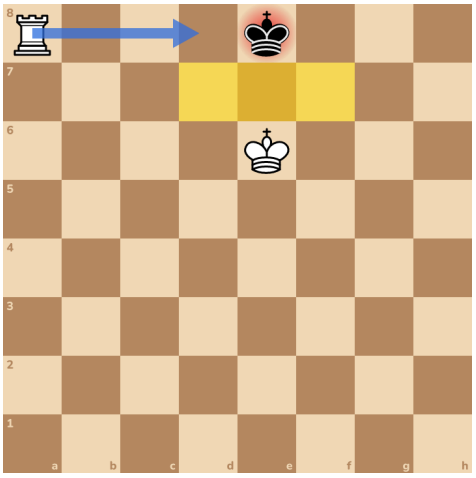
My Chess Family

How to checkmate with a king and rook

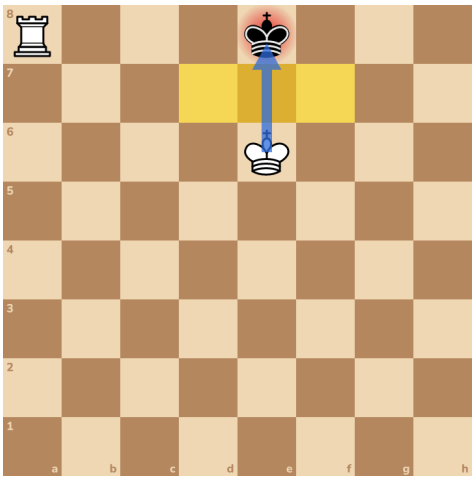
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

King and rook

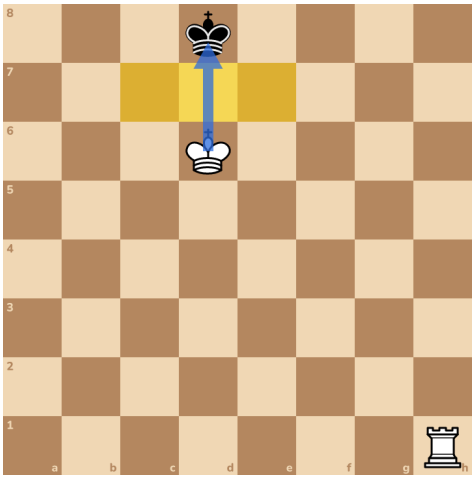
A king and rook can checkmate too. This is the checkmate you're aiming for.



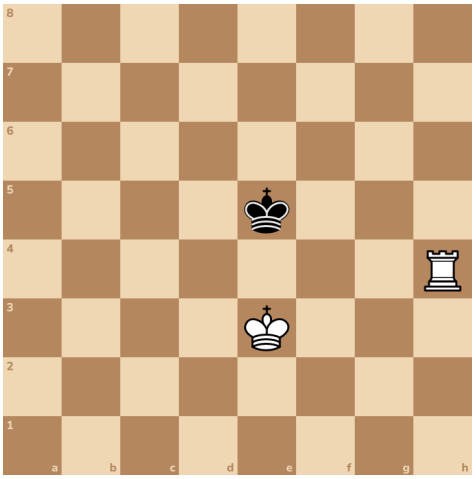
The rook checks along the edge. Your king faces his, with one square between, and guards the three squares in front of him.



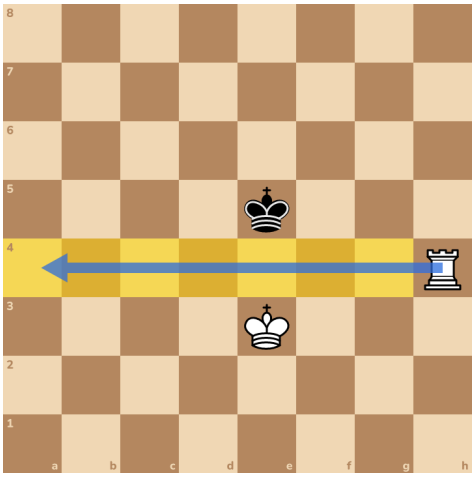
Try it 1. Now you try. Here the kings face each other. Checkmate!



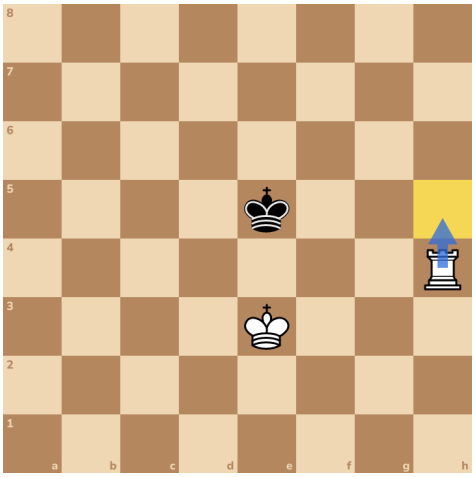
To get there, you push the king to the edge one row at a time. Here's how, in a new position.



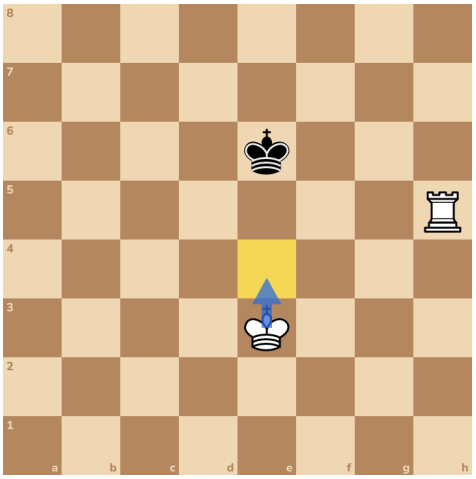
The rook guards the fourth row, like a wall. The black king can't cross it.



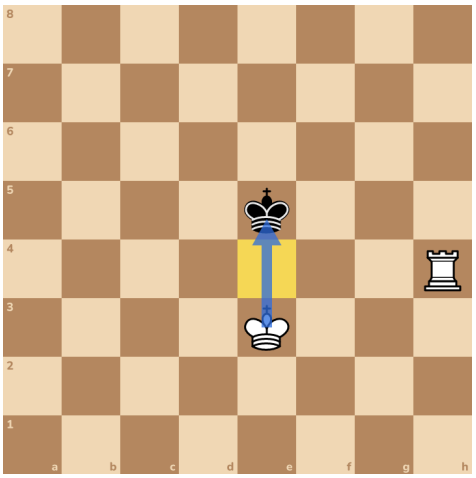
Try it 2. Check him! Move the rook up one square, to h5.



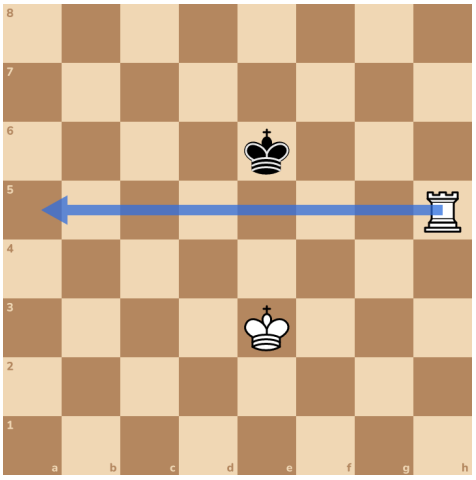
Try it 3. Walk your king up to face him again. Step to e4.



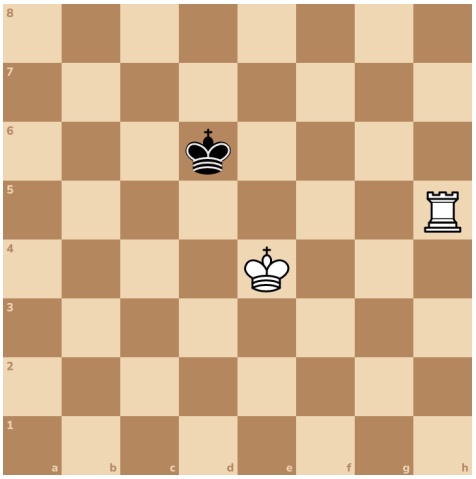
The two kings face each other, with one square between. When that happens, a check pushes him back a row.



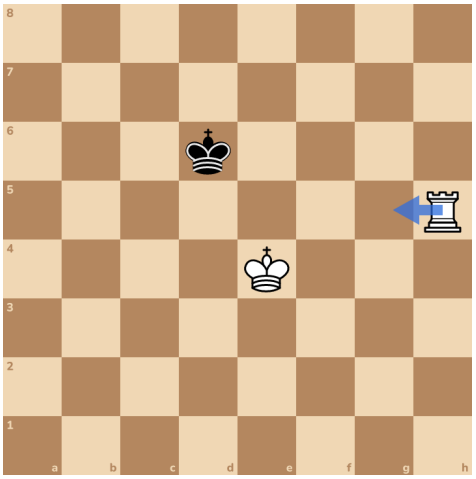
He had to step back. Your king guarded the squares below him, and the rook guards his row. Now the wall is the fifth row.



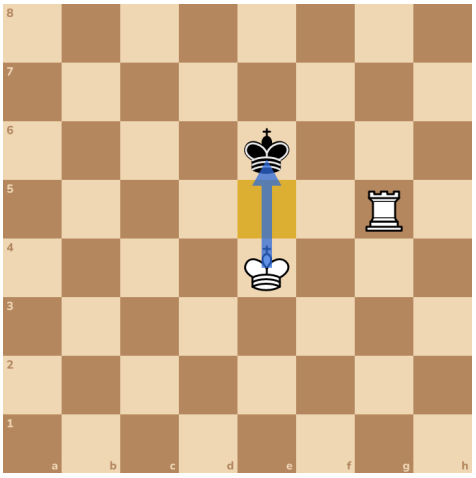
He stepped to the side, so the kings don't face each other. If you check him now, he slips past your king.



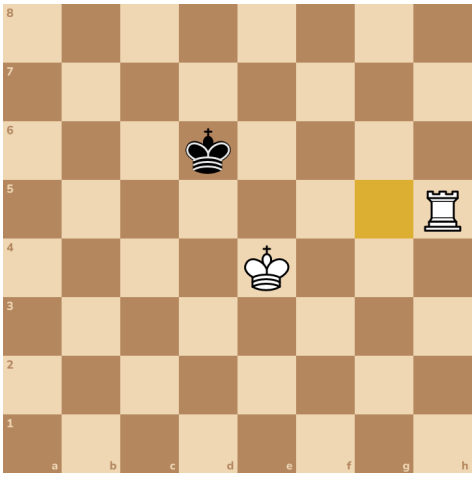
Here's the trick. A waiting move is a quiet move that changes nothing, so he has to move again. Slide the rook along its row. The wall stays.



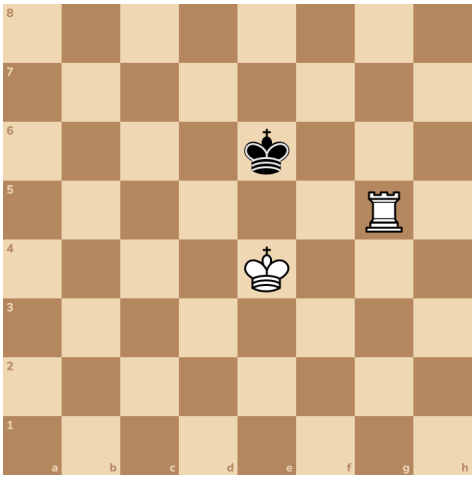
He stepped back in front of your king. The kings face each other again, with one square between. Now check him!



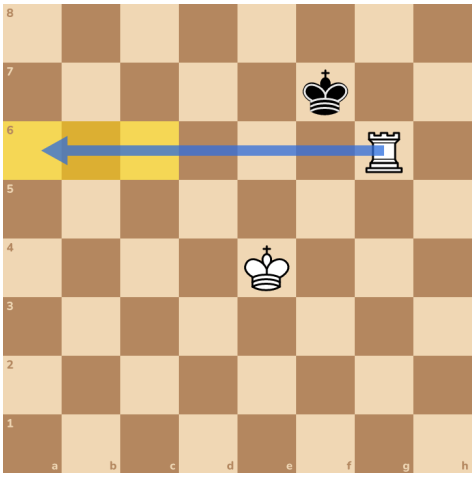
Try it 4. Make a waiting move. Slide the rook one square, to g5.



Try it 5. Check him, and push him back another row!

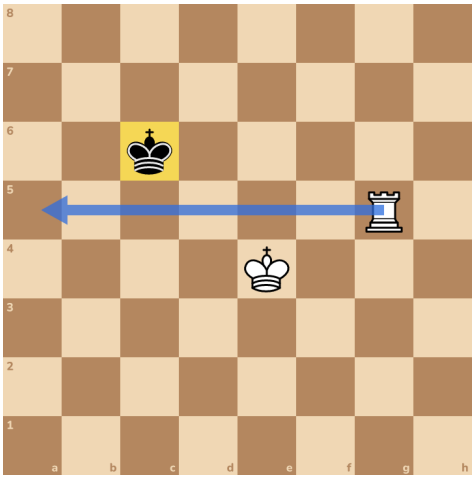


Try it 6. Now he's next to your rook! Slide it far away along its row, to the other side.

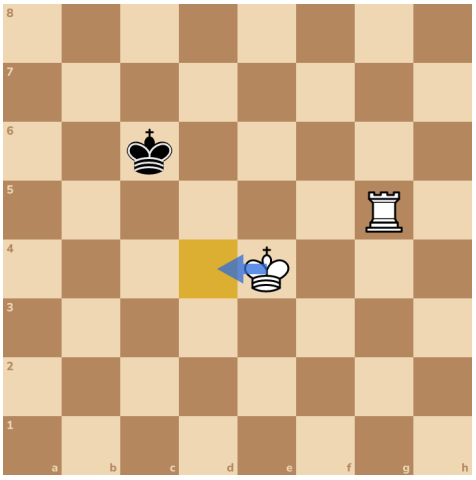


Safe, and the wall still holds. Keep going. Face him and check. If he steps aside, wait with the rook.

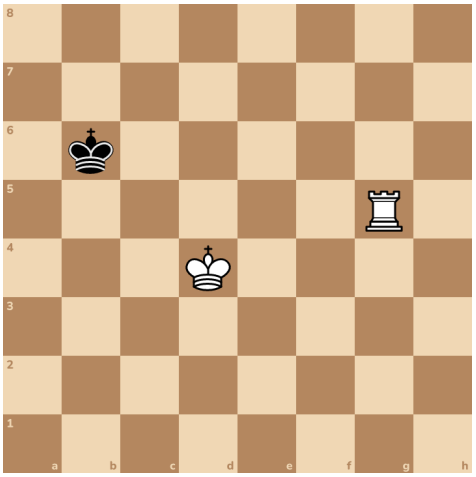
Here's a new position. Sometimes he walks away along your wall. Then a waiting move doesn't help, because he just keeps walking.



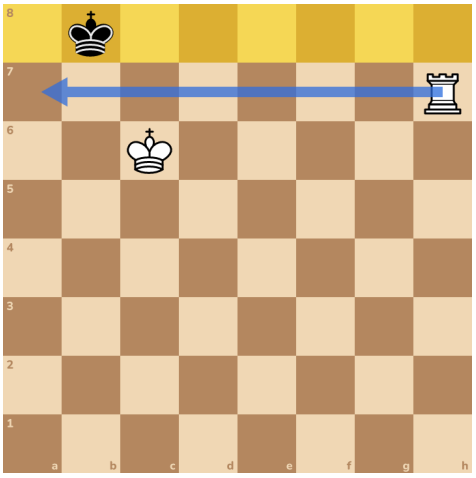
Try it 7. Follow him with your king. Step to the left, staying behind your wall.



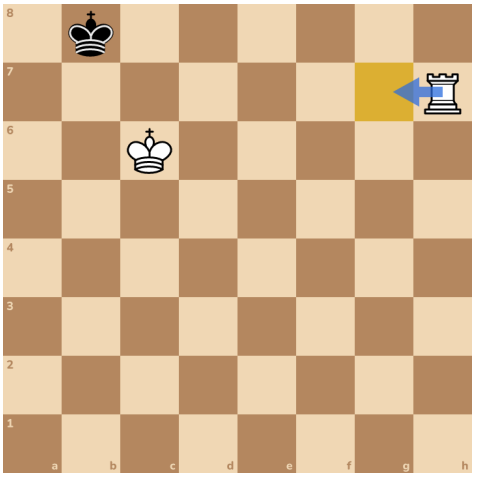
Keep walking after him. When the kings face each other again, check him.



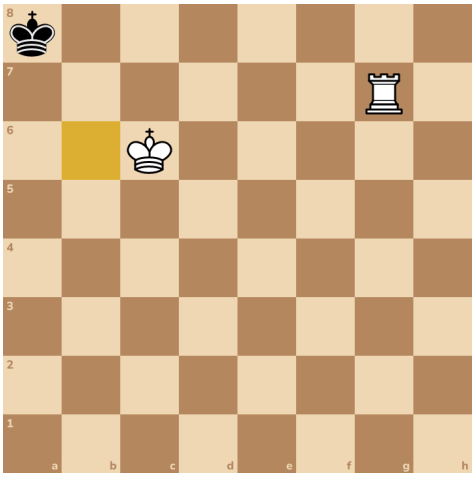
Here's a new position. The king is on the edge, but he won't step in front of your king.



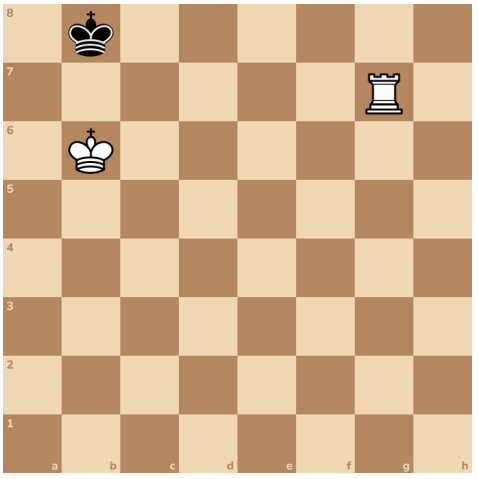
Try it 8. Make a waiting move. Slide the rook one square, to g7.



Try it 9. He ran into the corner. Walk your king to b6. When he steps back to b8, the kings will face each other.

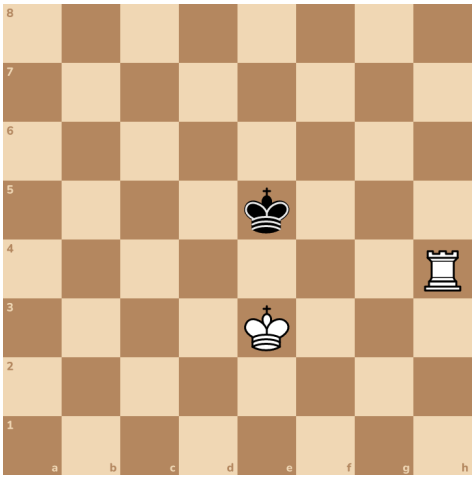


Try it 10. The kings face each other. Checkmate!



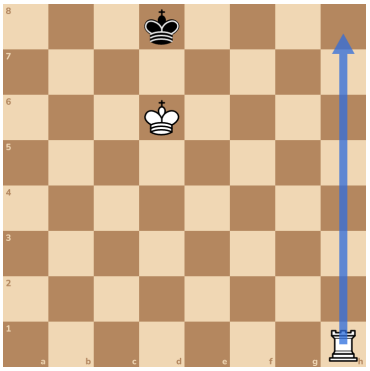
Checkmate! Face him and check. If he steps aside, wait. If he walks away, follow him. That's how the rook does it.

Play it out: Your turn. Push the king to the edge, then checkmate him! Try it on a board, or in the app.

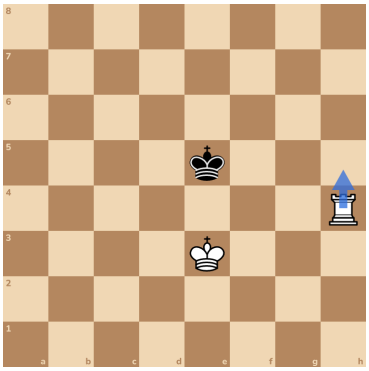


Answers

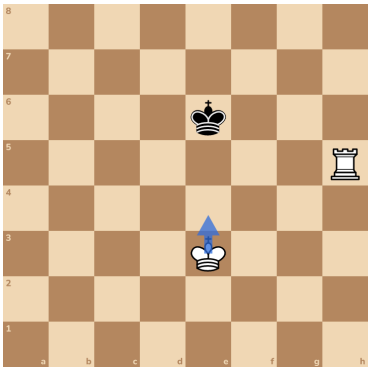
1. Rh8#



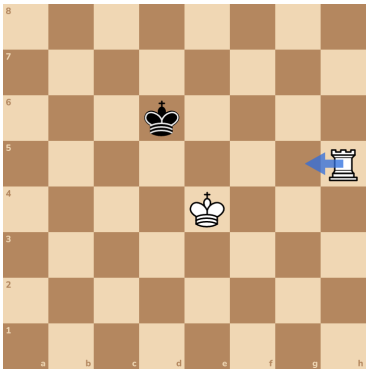
2. Rh5+



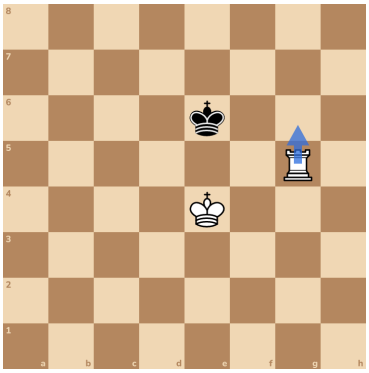
3. Ke4



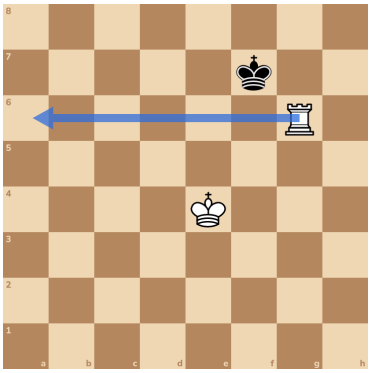
4. Rg5



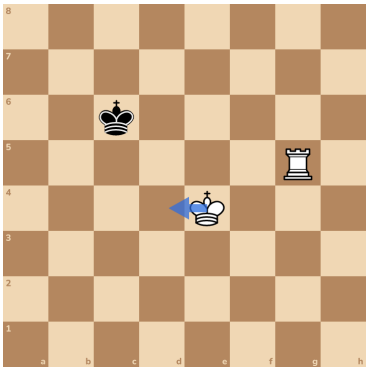
5. Rg6+



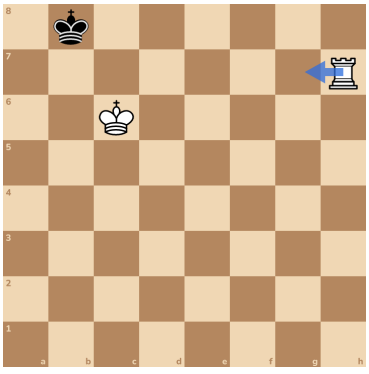
6. Ra6 or Rb6 or Rc6



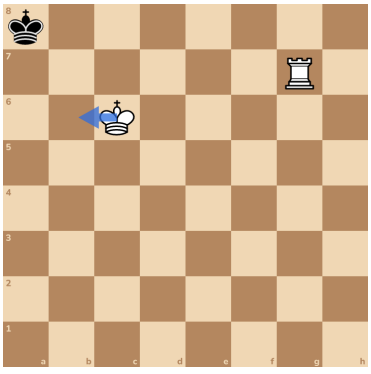
7. Kd4



8. Rg7



9. Kb6



10. Rg8#

