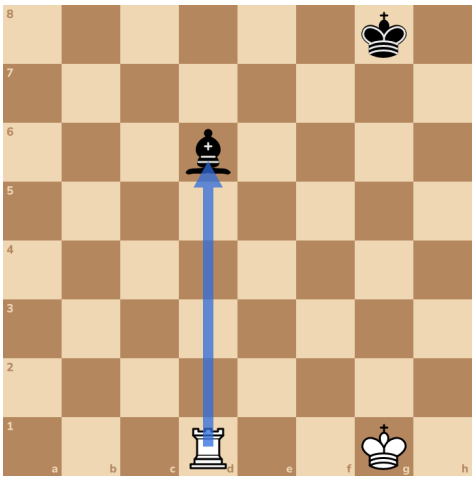
My Chess Family

How to win a piece in chess: free pieces

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

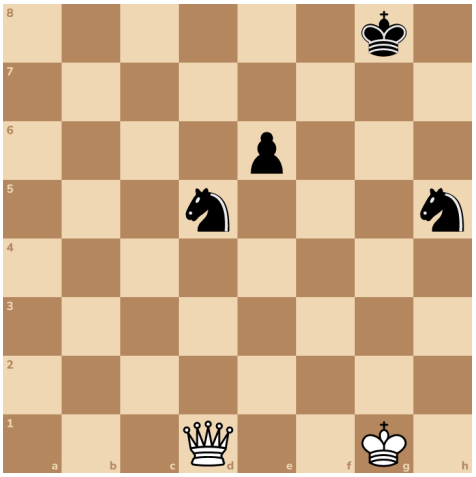
Free pieces

A piece that's attacked and not guarded is called hanging. If you can capture it for free, take it!

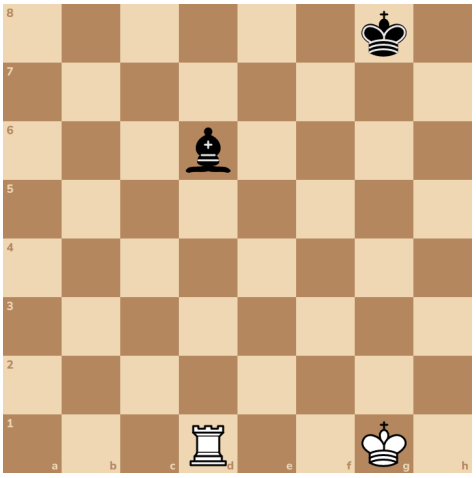


Before you capture, check the piece isn't guarded. If it is, you might lose your own piece straight back.

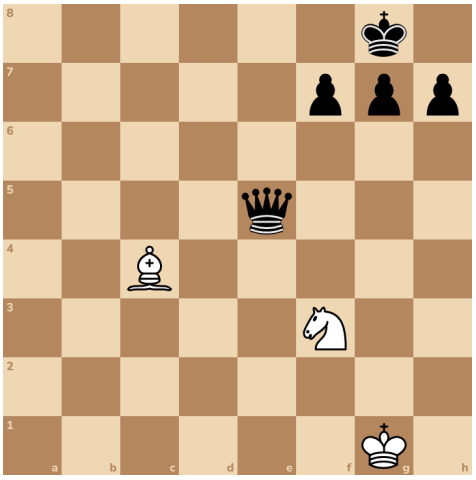
Try it 2. New position. One knight is guarded by a pawn. Capture the knight that's free!



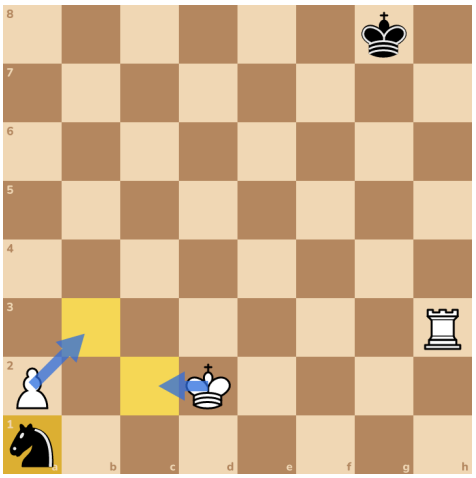
Try it 1. Nothing guards the bishop. Capture it!



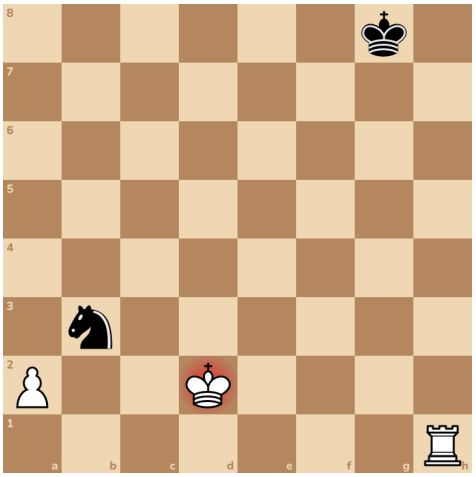
Try it 3. Here's another one. Look all over the board. Which black piece is hanging?



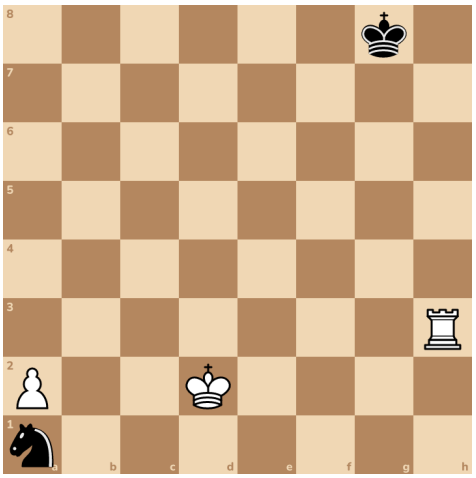
Here's a new position. This knight has nowhere safe to go. Your pawn guards b3, and your king guards c2. It's trapped!



Try it 5. The knight jumped out, but your pawn can catch it!



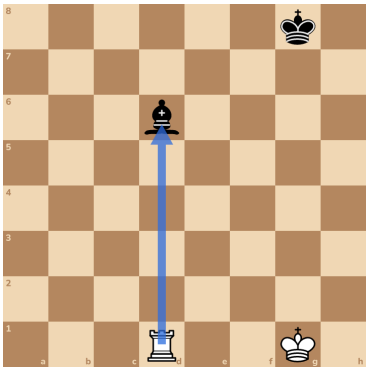
Try it 4. You can win a trapped piece. Attack the knight with your rook!



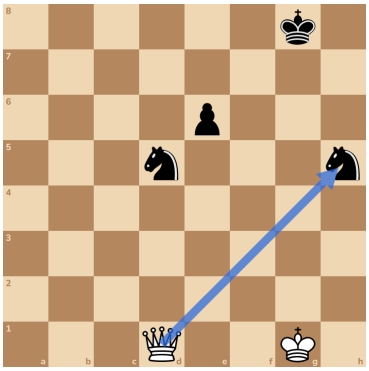
Well done! Look for pieces with no guard, and pieces with nowhere to go.

Answers

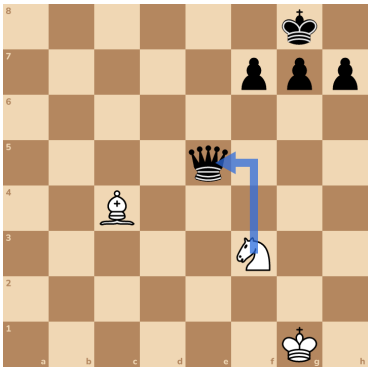
1. Rxd6



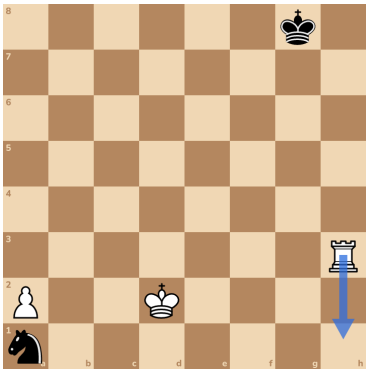
2. Qxh5



3. Nxe5



4. Rh1



5. axb3

