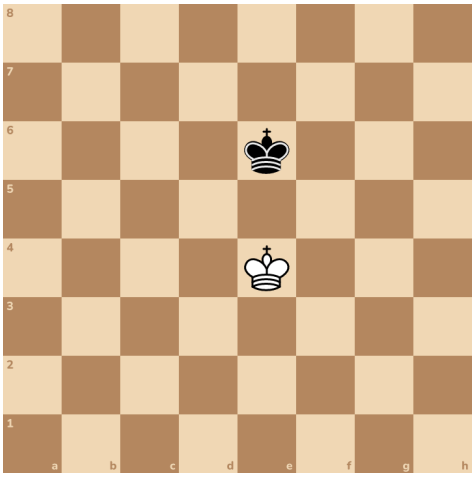
My Chess Family

Not enough pieces to checkmate: when chess is a draw

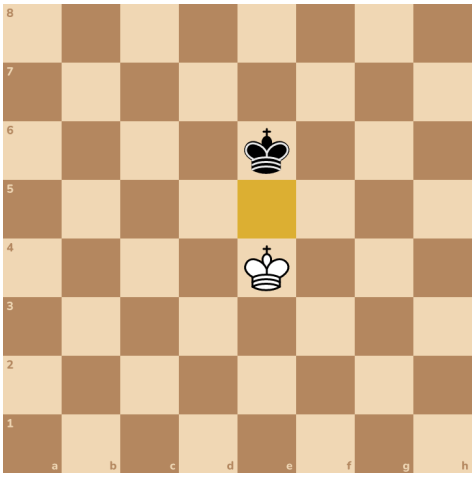
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

Just two kings

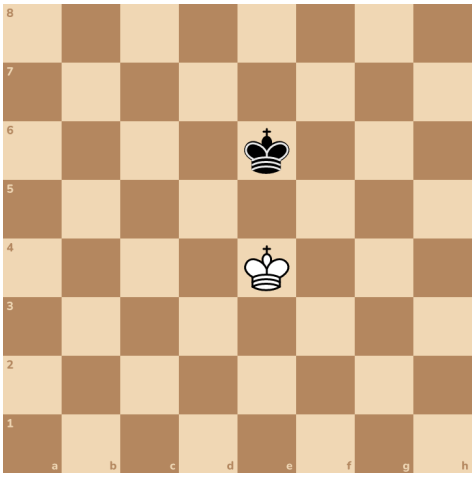
If only the two kings are left, the game is a draw. A king can never checkmate a king.



Kings can never stand next to each other. There's always a square between them.



Try it 1. Point to every square the white king can move to. Keep away from the black king!

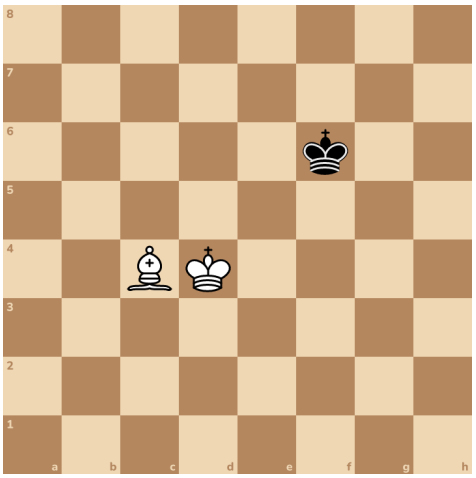


Try it 2. Only the two kings are left. Who wins?

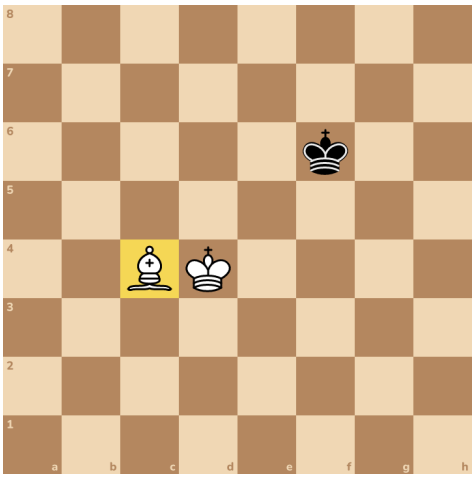
A: White **B: Black** **C: Nobody**

Not enough pieces

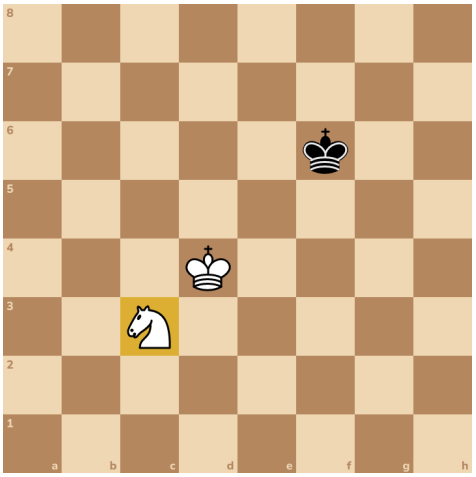
Some pieces can't checkmate on their own. If nobody has enough pieces left to checkmate, the game is a draw.



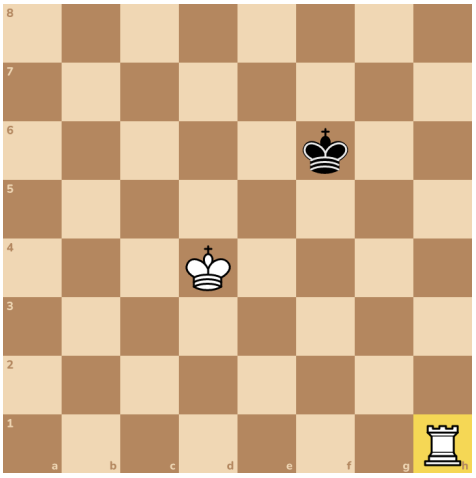
A king and one bishop can't checkmate a lone king. There are always squares he can escape to.



Here's a new position. A king and one knight can't checkmate either. So this is a draw too.

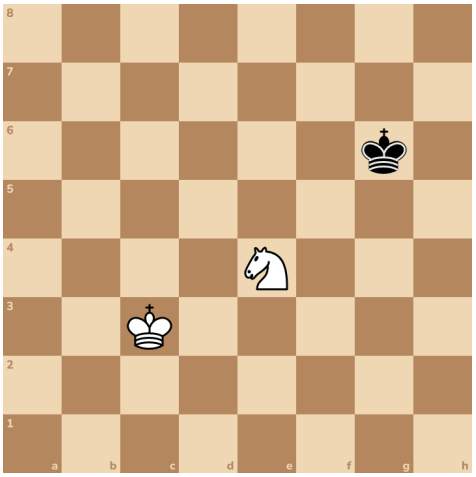


Here's a new position. A king and a queen can checkmate, and so can a king and a rook. Those games carry on.



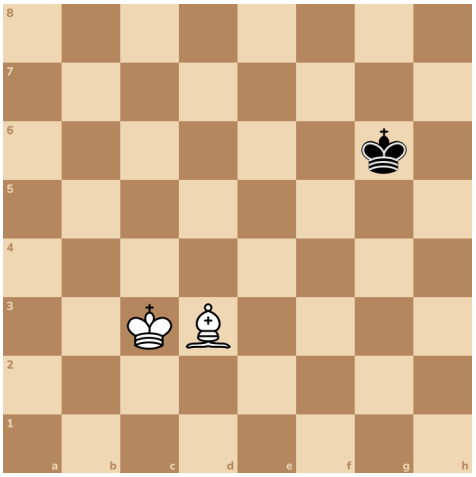
Try it 3. White has a king and a knight. Black has only a king. Who wins?

A: White **B: Black** **C: Draw**



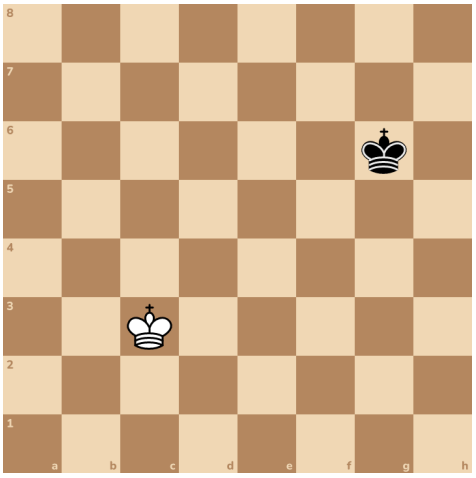
Try it 4. White has a king and a bishop. Black has only a king. Who wins?

A: White **B: Black** **C: Draw**



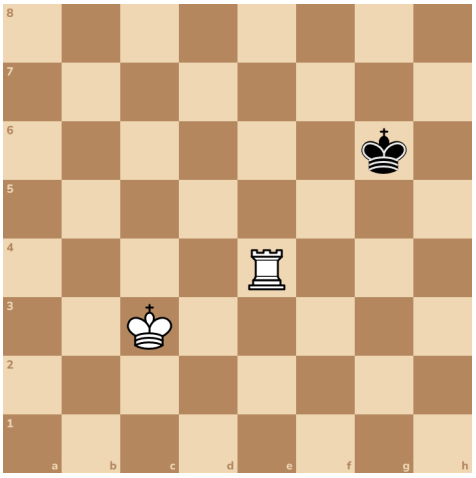
Try it 5. Only the two kings are left. Is it a draw?

A: Yes **B: No**



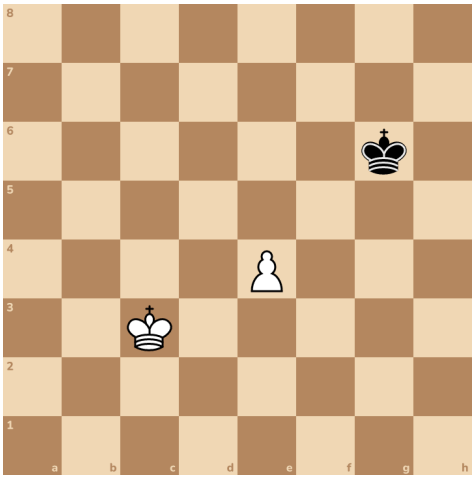
Try it 6. White has a king and a rook. Black has only a king. Is it a draw?

A: Yes **B: No**



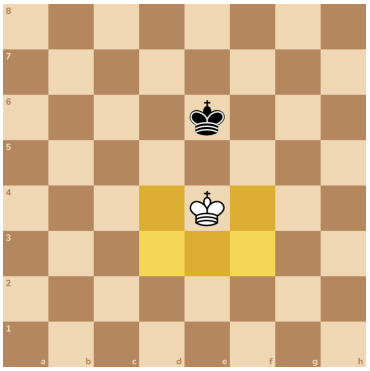
Try it 7. White has a king and a pawn. Black has only a king. Is it a draw straight away?

A: Yes **B: No**



Answers

1. f4, f3, e3, d3, d4



2. C: Nobody

Nobody. It's a draw! So keep some pieces, and use them to give checkmate.

3. C: Draw

4. C: Draw

5. A: Yes

6. B: No

7. B: No