My Chess Family

The weak f7 square: attack f7, guard f2

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

Attack f7, guard f2

Here's the start of a game. Look at Black's pawn on f7. Only the king guards it.



That makes f7 a weak spot early in the game. Your queen and a bishop can both aim at it.



Here's a game. You played e4 and Bc4, and Black played e5 and Nc6. Your bishop aims at f7.



Try it 1. Bring your queen out to aim at f7 too!



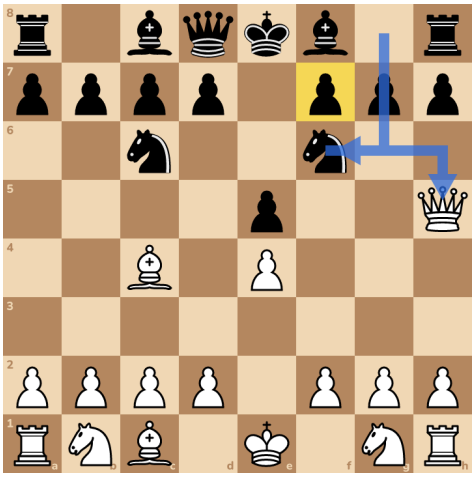
Both work! Let's put your queen on h5. Now she aims at f7 too. That's two attackers, and only one guard.



Try it 2. Take f7 with your queen. Checkmate!



Black plays Nf6 to attack your queen. But he forgot about f7!



The king can't take your queen, because your bishop guards her. And he has no safe square to go to.

Here's a new position. A careful player stops the trick. Here Black pushed g6. The pawn blocks your queen's line to f7, and attacks her.



Now your queen has to move again, and Black gets time to bring out his pieces. So the trick only works if Black makes a mistake.



Only your king guards f2. If you do nothing, Qxf2 is checkmate.



Try it 3. Stop Qxf2!



Here's a new position. This time Black is aiming at your f2 pawn, with the queen on h4 and the bishop on c5.



Careful! Nf3 attacks the queen, but it doesn't guard f2. If you play Nf3, Qxf2 is checkmate.



Well done! Early in a game, watch f7 and f2. Attack theirs, and guard yours.

Answers

1. Qh5 or Qf3



2. Qxf7#



3. Qe2 or Qf3 or g3

