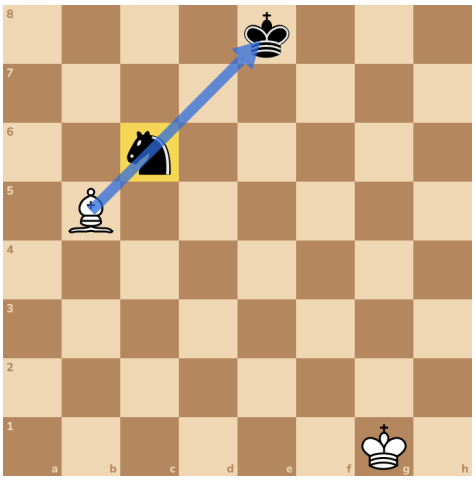
My Chess Family

What is a pin in chess?

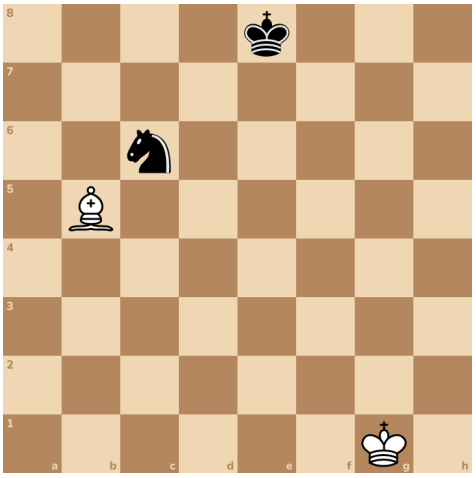
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

Pins

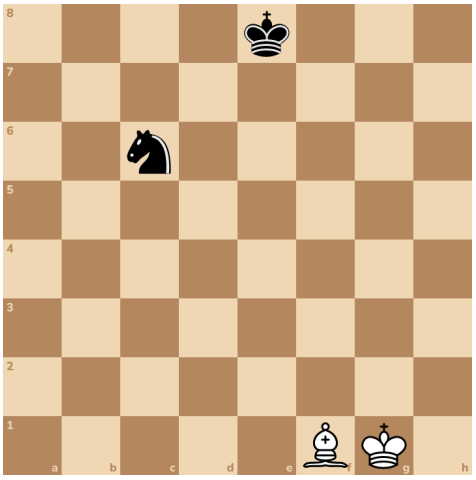
A pin is when a piece shouldn't move, because something more important is behind it. If the king is behind it, it can't move at all.



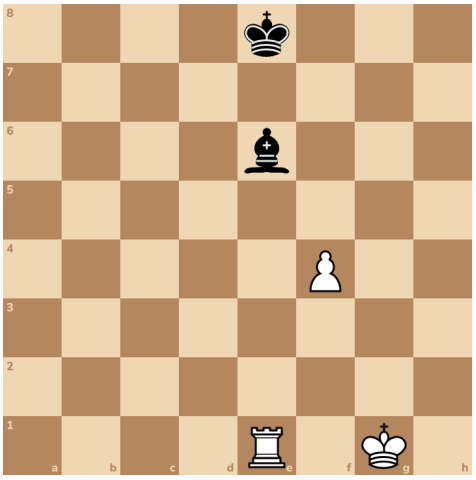
The knight is pinned. If it moved, the king would be in check, and that's not allowed.



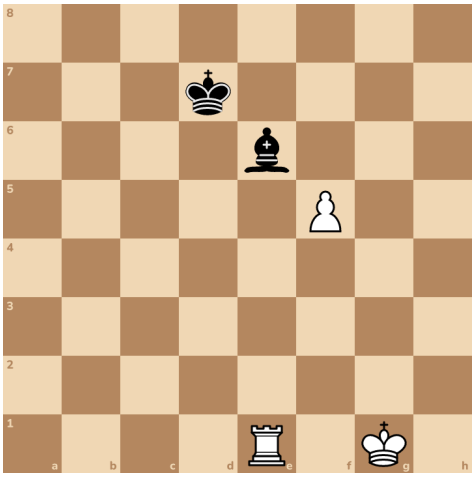
Try it 1. Pin the knight to the king with your bishop!



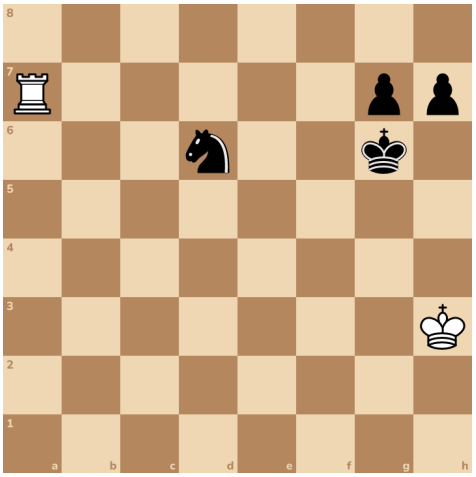
Try it 2. New position. The bishop is pinned to its king. Attack it with your pawn!



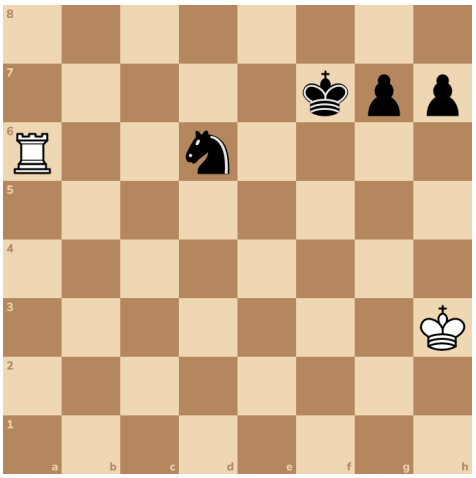
Try it 3. Now win the bishop!



Try it 4. Here's another one. Pin the knight to the king with your rook!



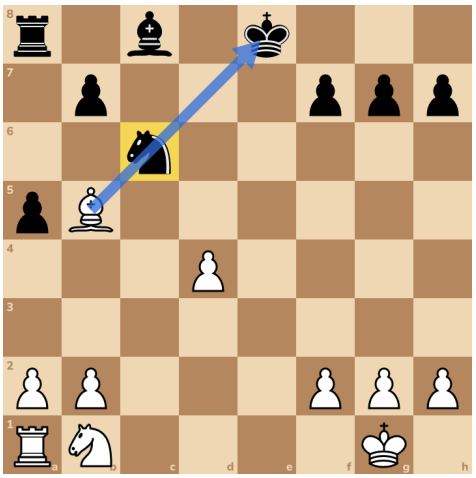
Try it 5. The king stepped away, but the knight is still attacked. Take it!



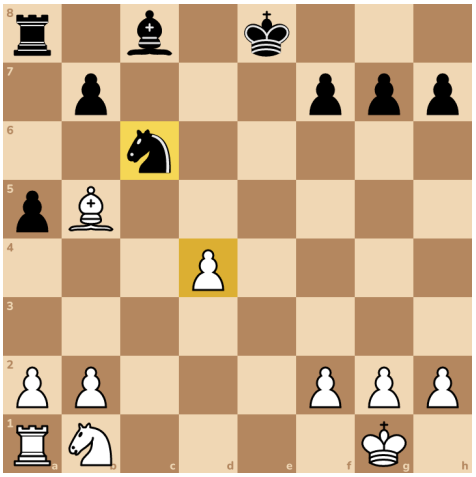
Well done! Pinned pieces are stuck, so attack them again.

Attack the pinned piece

Here's a new position. Your bishop pins Black's knight to the king. The knight can't move at all.



Better to attack the pinned knight again, with something worth less. A pawn is perfect!



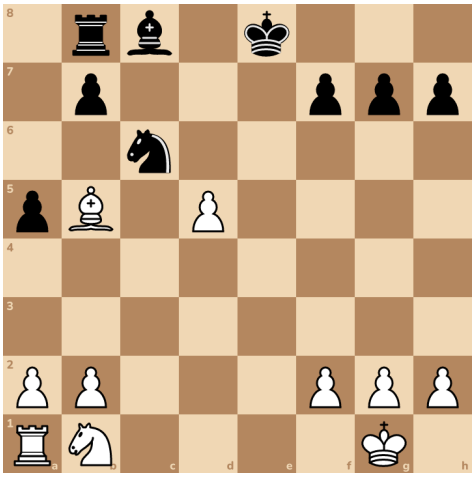
Taking it now is just a swap. After Bxc6, the pawn on b7 takes back. Your bishop for their knight.



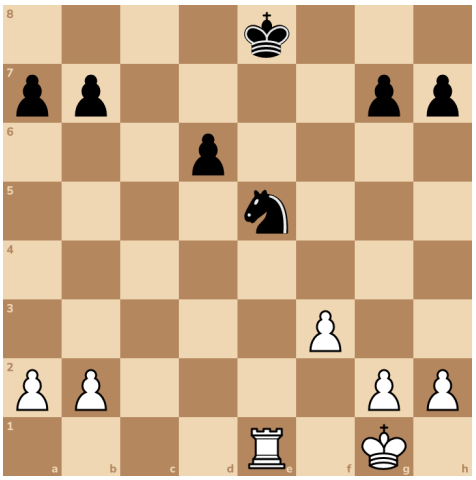
Try it 6. Push your pawn to d5. It attacks the knight, and the knight can't run away!



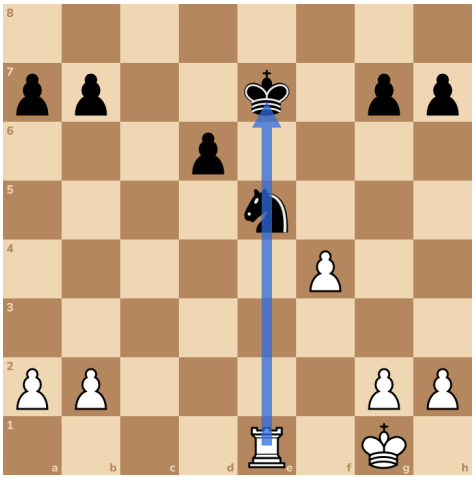
Try it 7. Now win the knight!



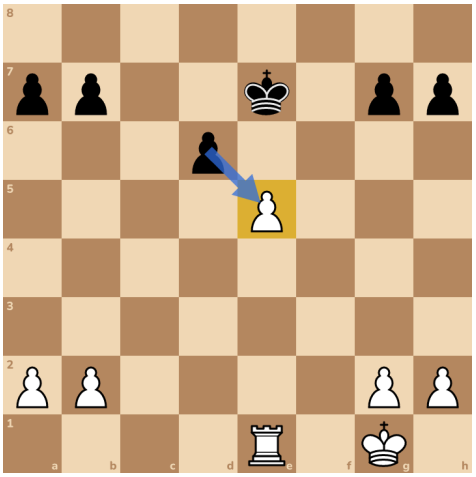
Try it 8. Here's a new position. Your rook pins the knight to the king. Win the pinned piece!



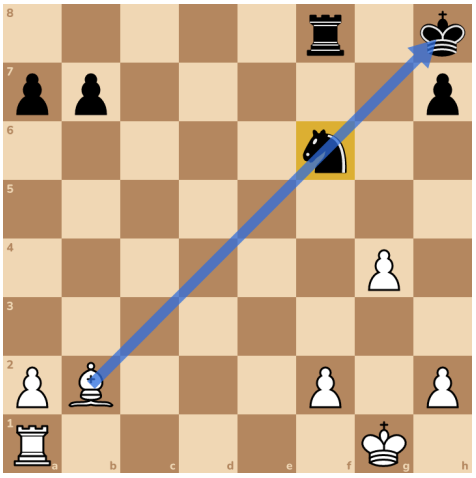
Try it 9. The king stepped back, but it's still behind the knight. So the knight is still stuck. Take it!



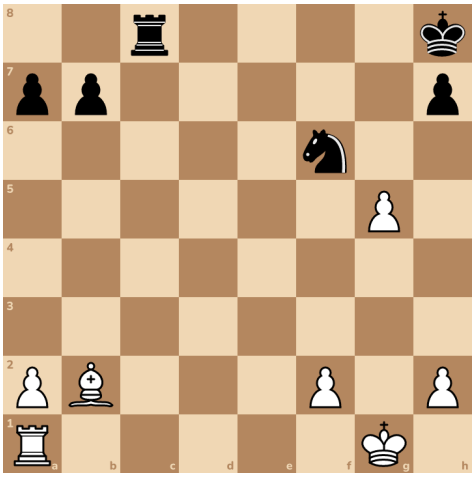
Black's d6 pawn can take back. That's still a pawn for a knight, a great swap!



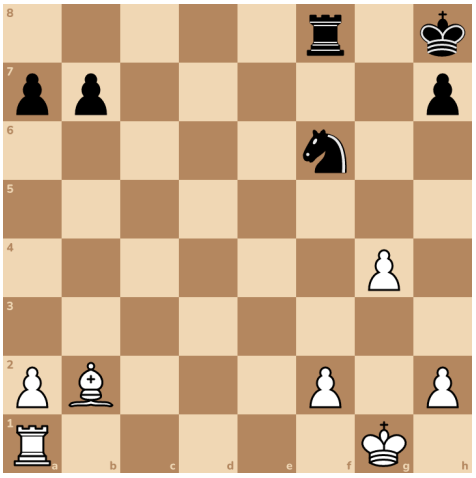
Here's a new position. Your bishop pins the knight on f6 to the king on h8.



Try it 11. Take the knight!



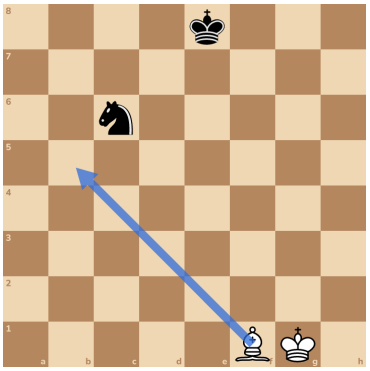
Try it 10. The rook guards the knight. Attack it again with a pawn!



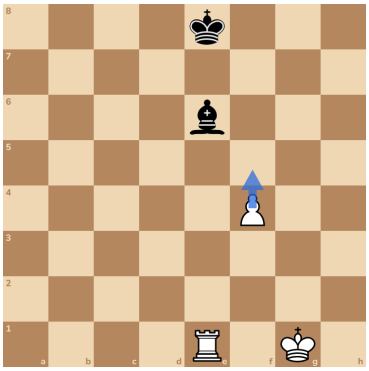
Well done! A pinned piece is stuck, so attack it again, best of all with a pawn.

Answers

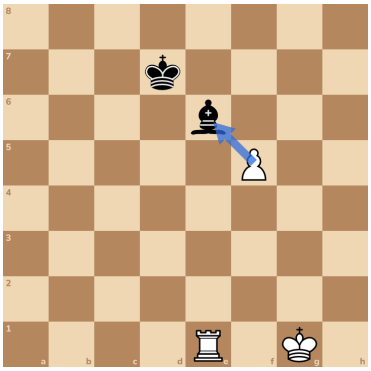
1. Bb5



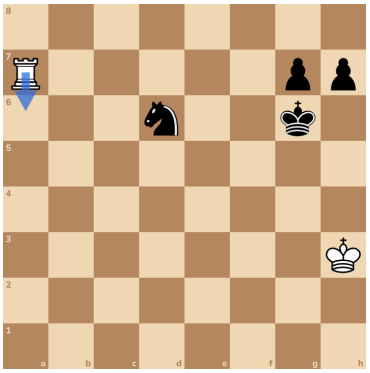
2. f5



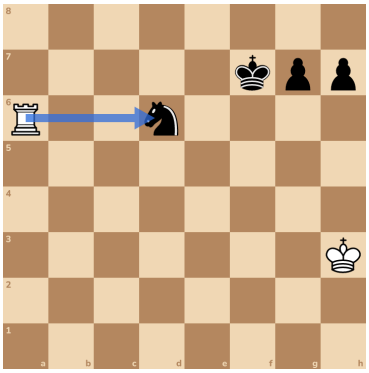
3. fxe6+ or Rxe6



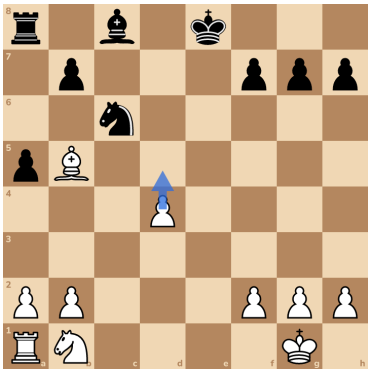
4. Ra6



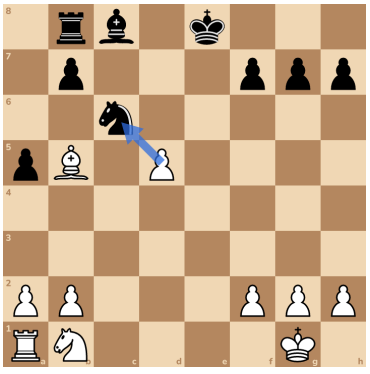
5. Rxd6



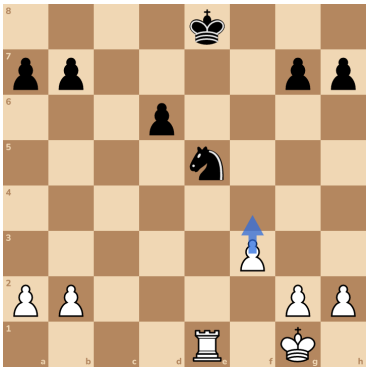
6. d5



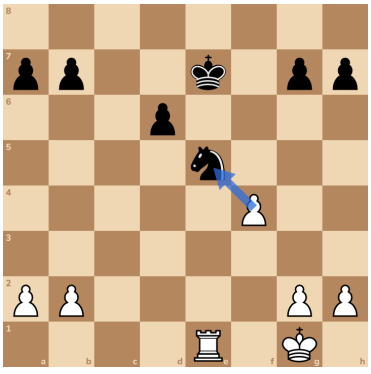
7. dxc6



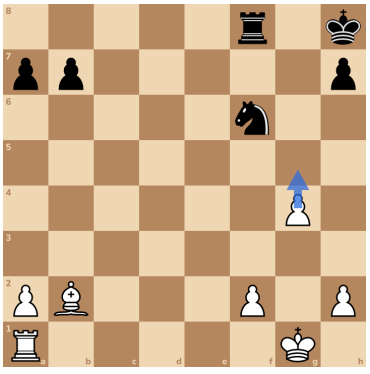
8. f4



9. fxe5



10. g5



11. Bxf6+ or gxf6

