My Chess Family

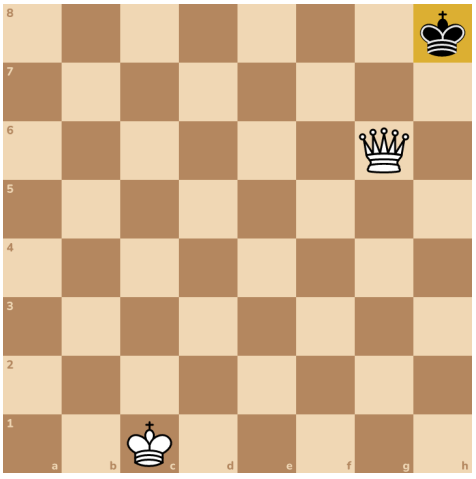
What is stalemate in chess?

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

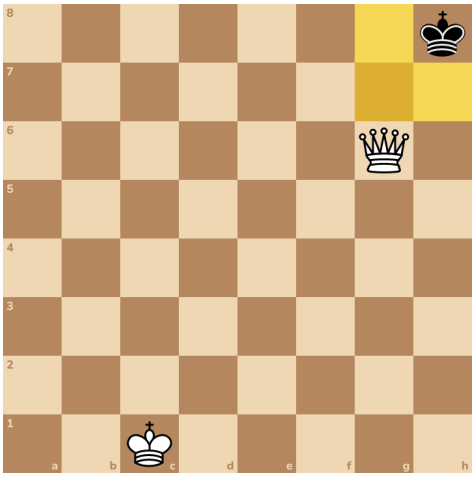
Stalemate

Not every game has a winner. Sometimes it's a draw. Nobody wins and nobody loses.

Stalemate is a draw. It happens when the player to move isn't in check, but has no legal move.

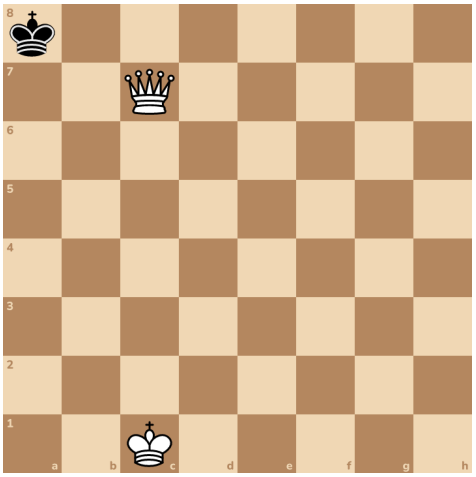


The black king isn't in check. But every square he could step to is attacked. So it's stalemate!



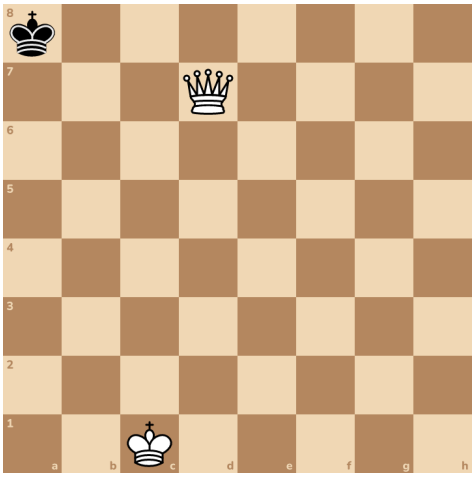
Try it 1. New position. Black to move. Is this stalemate?

A: Yes **B: No**



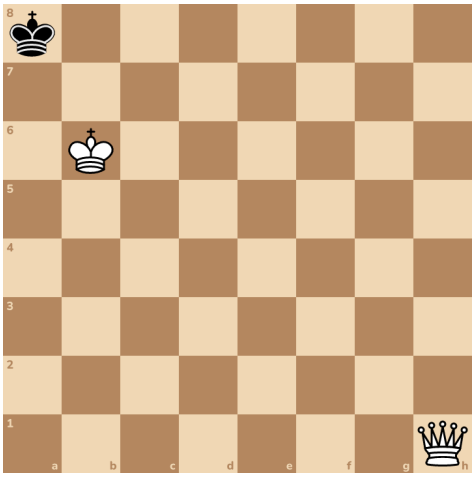
Try it 2. Here's another one. Black to move. Is this stalemate?

A: Yes **B: No**



When you're winning, be careful! Don't trap the king if it isn't check.

Try it 3. Here's a new position. You're winning. Give checkmate, not stalemate!



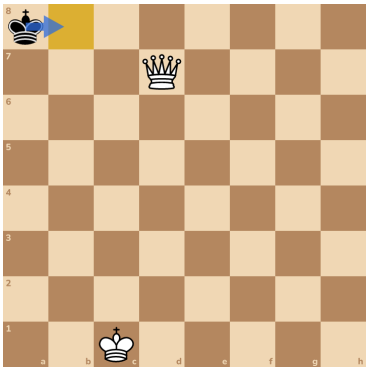
Checkmate! Much better than a draw.

Answers

1. A: Yes

2. B: No

Not stalemate. The queen doesn't attack b8, so the king can step there. He has a legal move.



3. Qh8# or Qb7#

