



DELANCEY
UK SCHOOLS

CHESS CHALLENGE

Mega Puzzles

Issues 1-27



Description of Levels

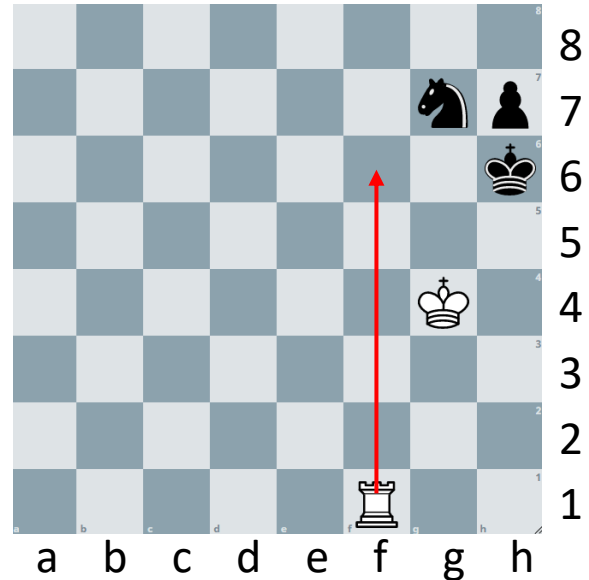
Club	Description	Approximate ECF Grade *
DECA – Club	Complete beginners and those with an incomplete grasp of the rules	Ungraded
MEGA – Club	Know the rules but little grasp of planning what to do beyond capturing and quick checkmates. Little to no tournament experience	0 – 59
GIGA – Club	Players with some tournament experience looking to “level up”	60 – 99
TERA – Club	More experienced players who have won or placed highly in local competitions	100 – 129
EXA - Club	Very experienced players with success at National Level events	130 – 159

Example

Below are examples of how you might write your solution to a puzzle presented in the booklet. Or you might prefer to just solve them in your head – completely up to you!

Q: Can you find checkmate in one for white?

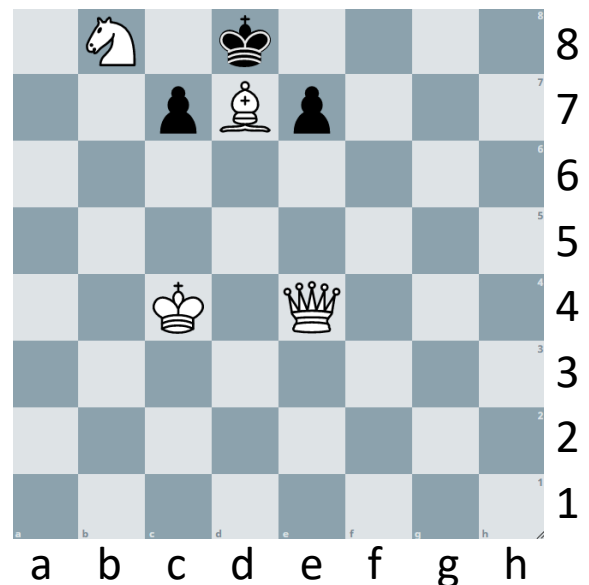
Here, because the solution is only one move, you might draw arrows on the board or you can use the lines below to answer – or both!



Rf6#
.....
.....

Q: Can you find checkmate in two for white?

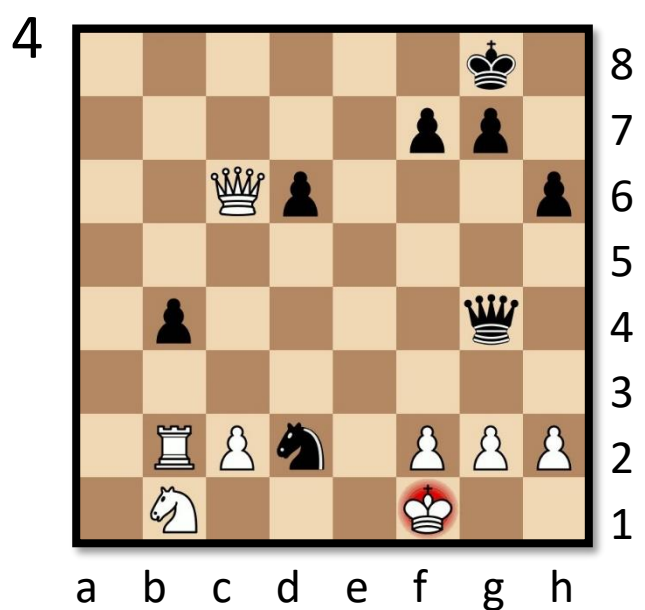
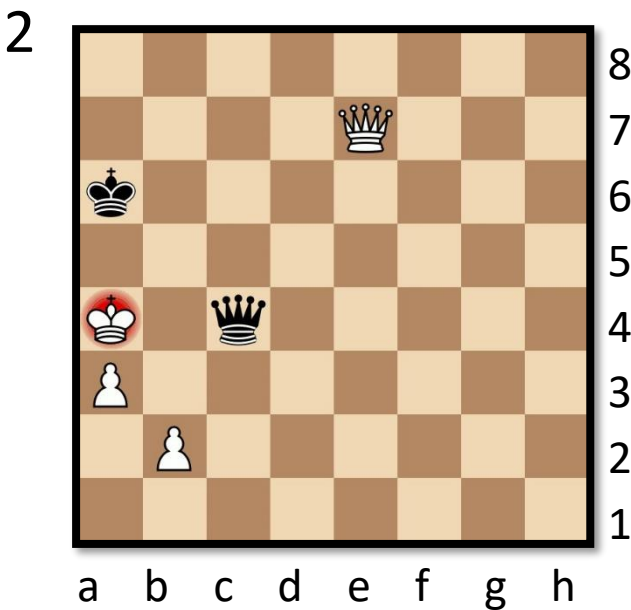
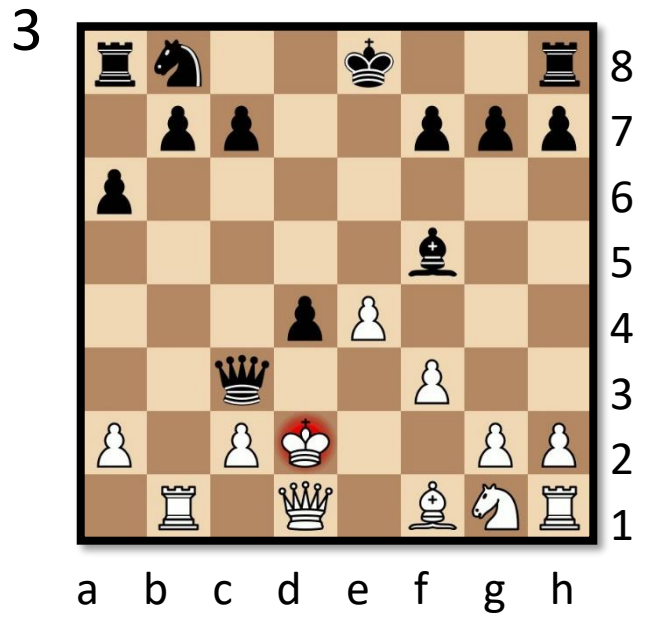
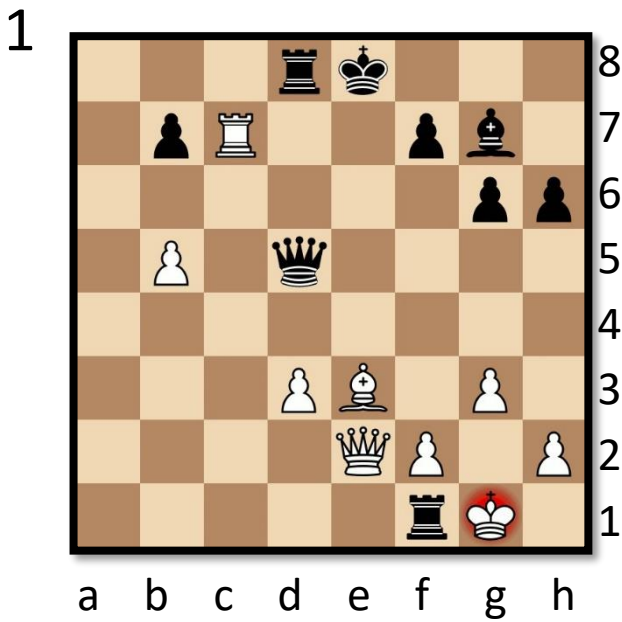
Here, the solution is a bit (OK a lot!) trickier and requires consideration of multiple variations. If you are familiar with coordinates, it is probably best that you write your answer out as shown.



1.Qe1 e6 (1..c6 2.Qa5#) 2. Qh4#
.....
.....

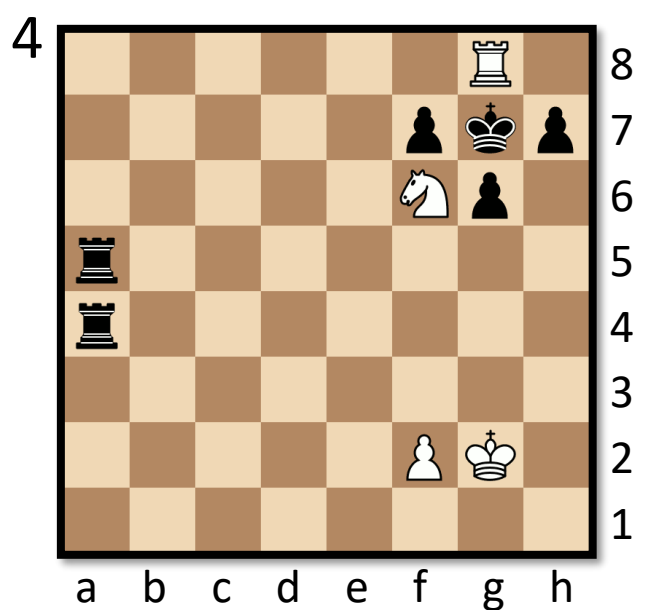
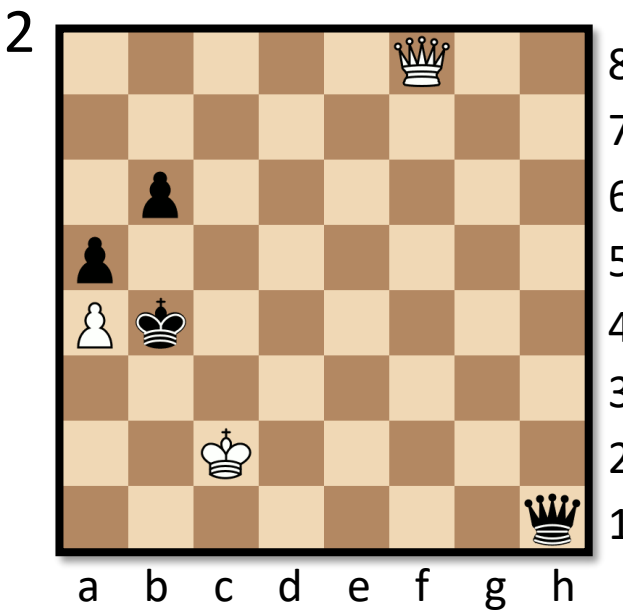
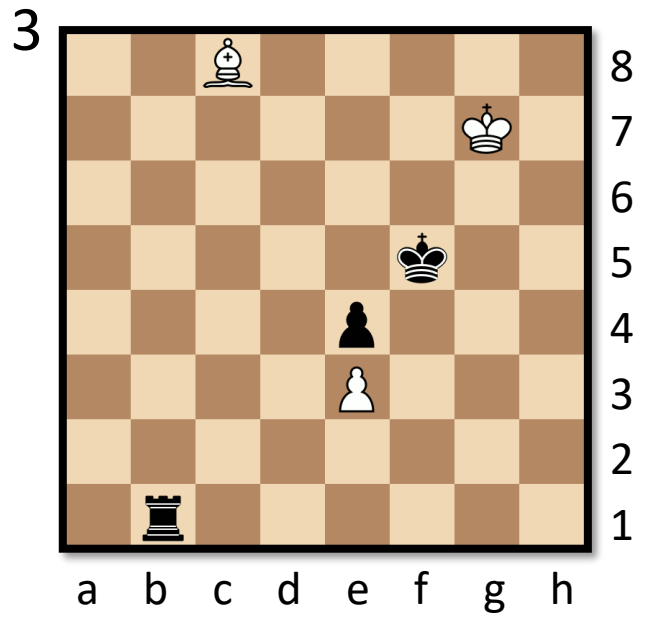
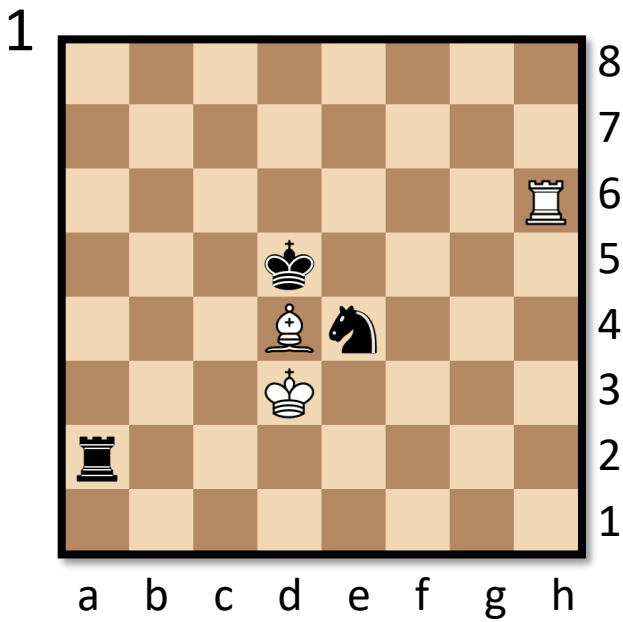
Mega

In each diagram it is white to move and you have a choice of how to get out of check. Choose the correct move and show why the alternative is a bad idea.



Mega

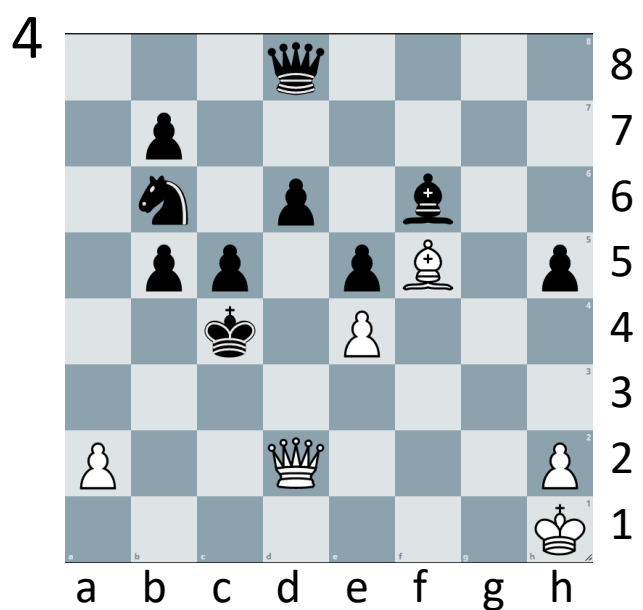
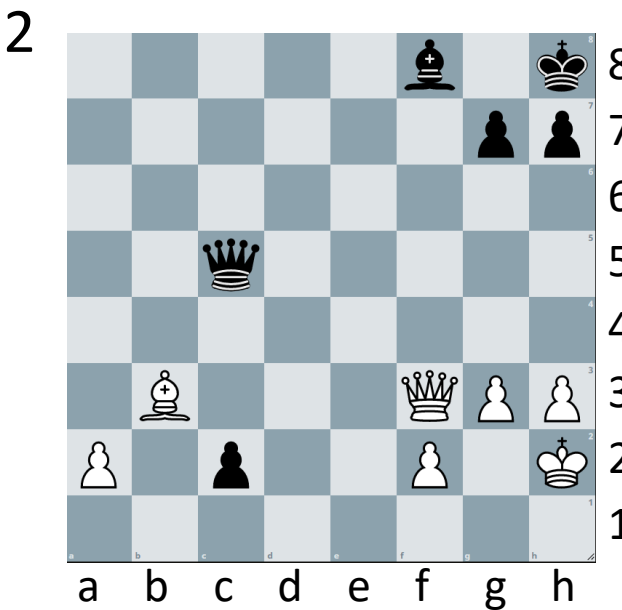
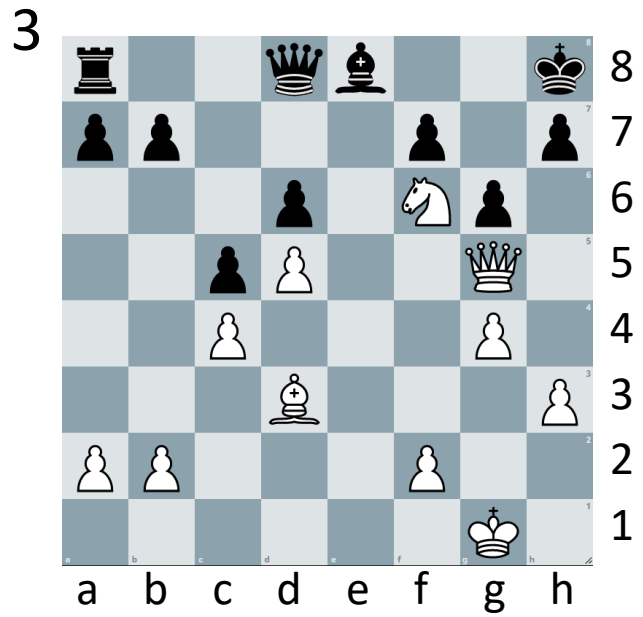
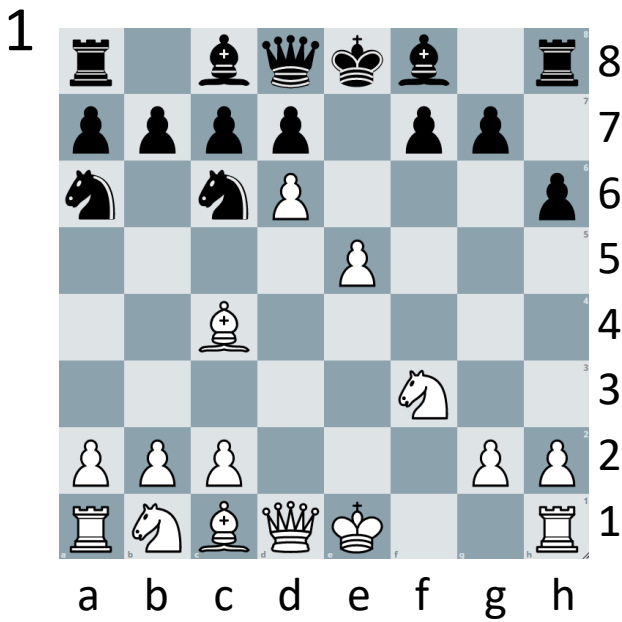
In this puzzles you must place a white pawn on the board so the black king is in checkmate! Sometimes the pawn is the attacker (checking the king) and others it is the guard (defending the escape squares)



Mega

In the diagrams below it is white play. Your task is to find a move which threatens checkmate on the next move. Black either cannot parry the threat or it will cost them a lot of material to do so!

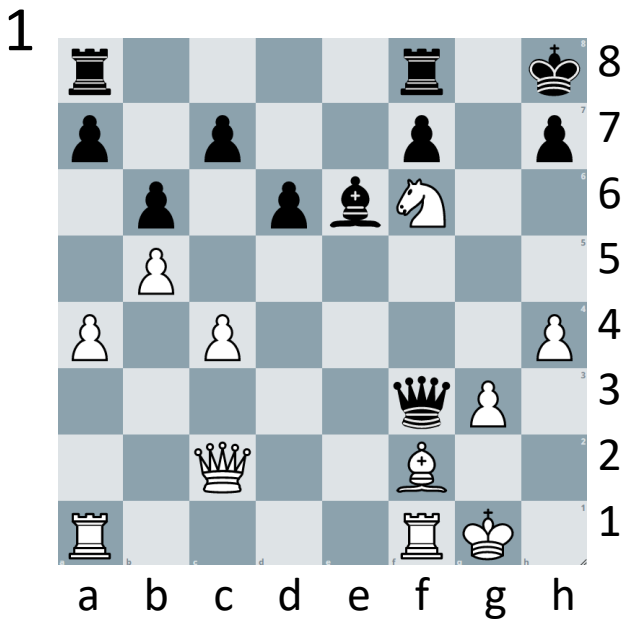
Knowing how to create checkmating threats will make you a much more dangerous opponent!



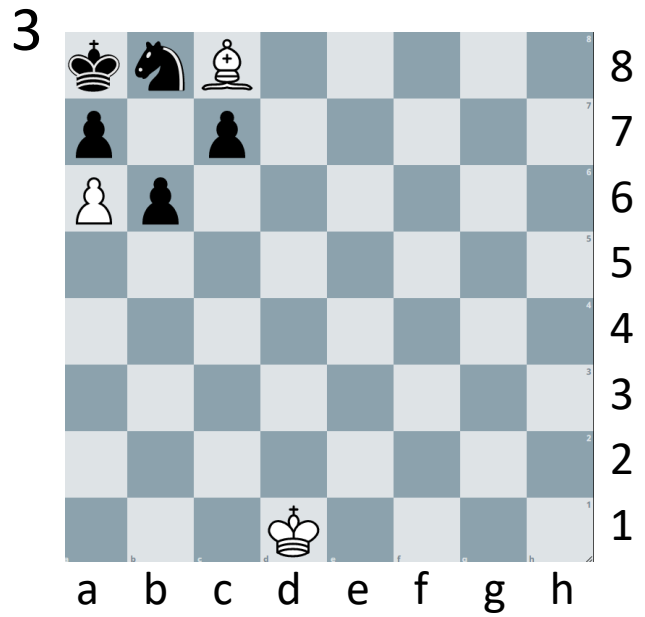
Mega

You'll be familiar with checkmate by now, one of the most important concepts in chess.

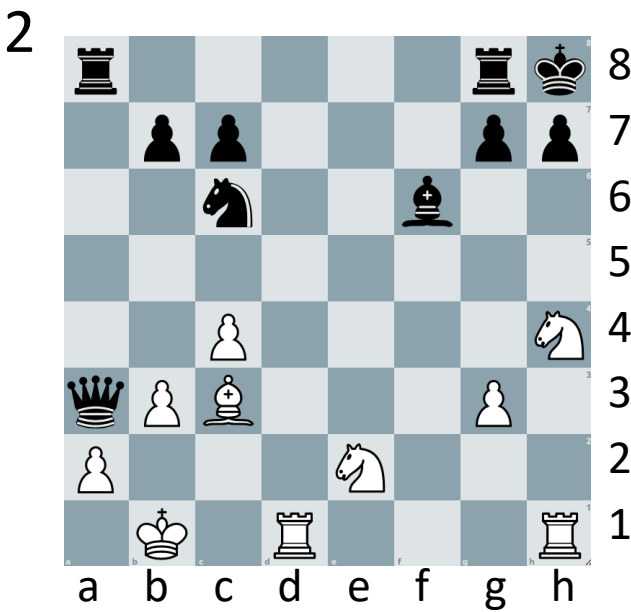
In the diagrams below it is white play. Can you find the checkmates in one move?



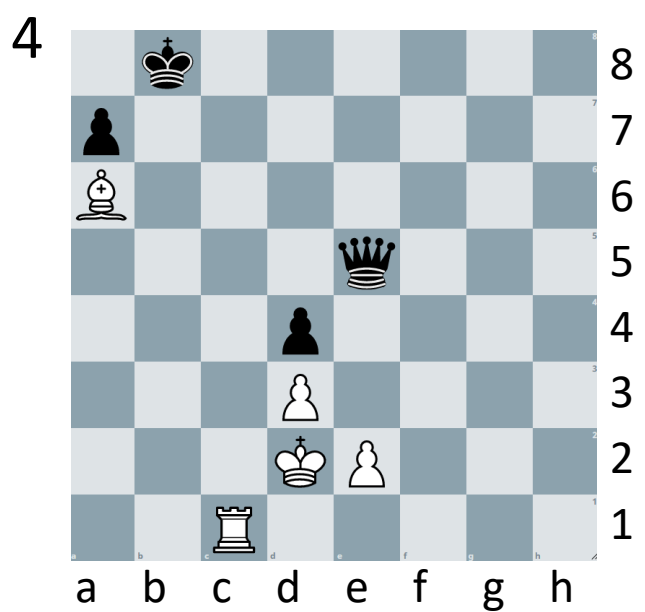
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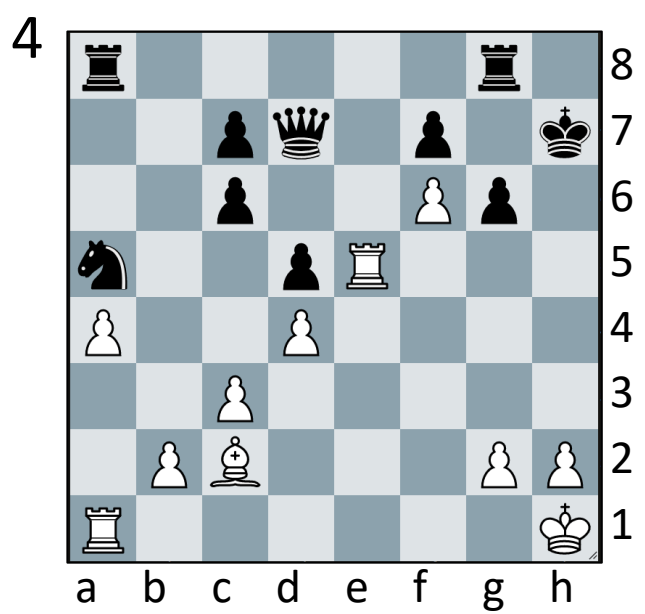
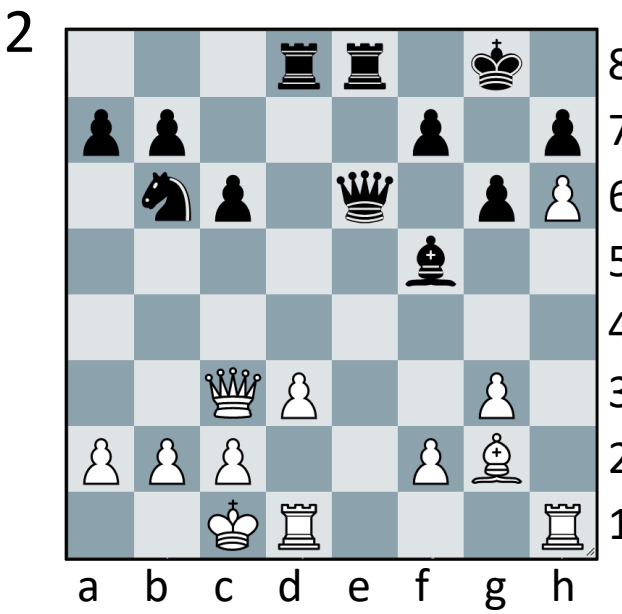
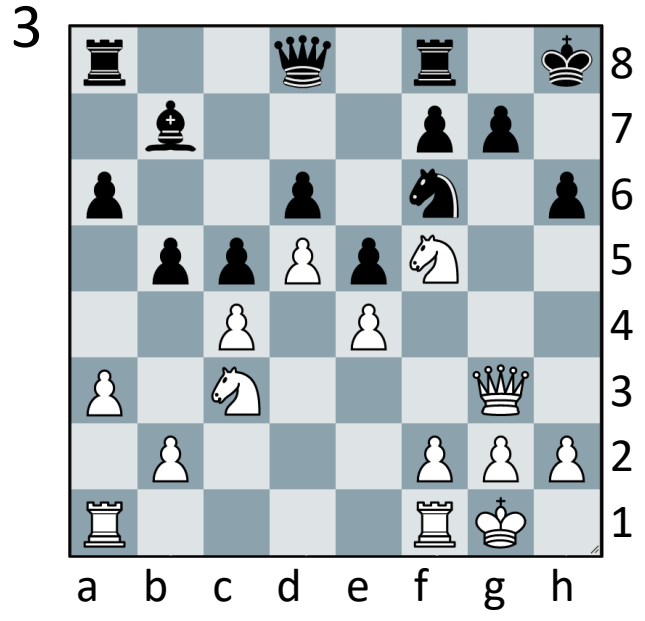
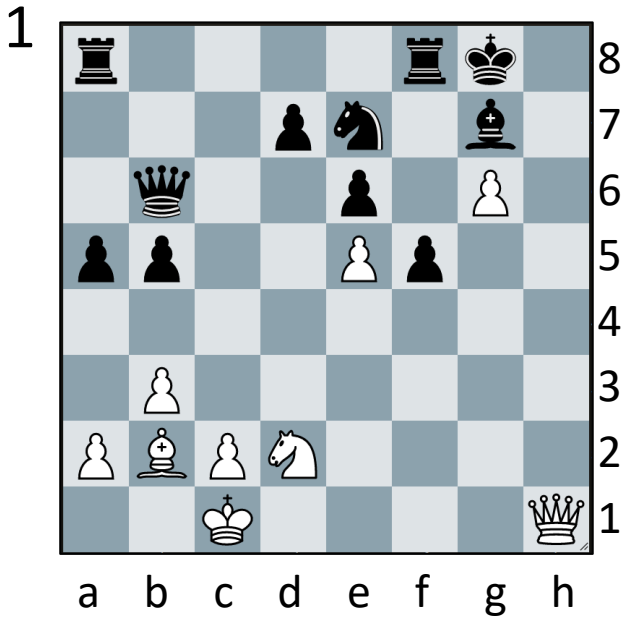
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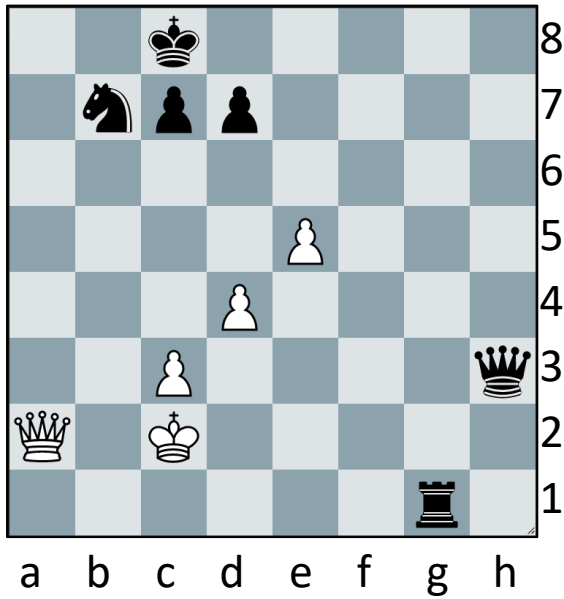
In the diagrams below it is white to play and checkmate in one move. The theme is attacking on the kingside.



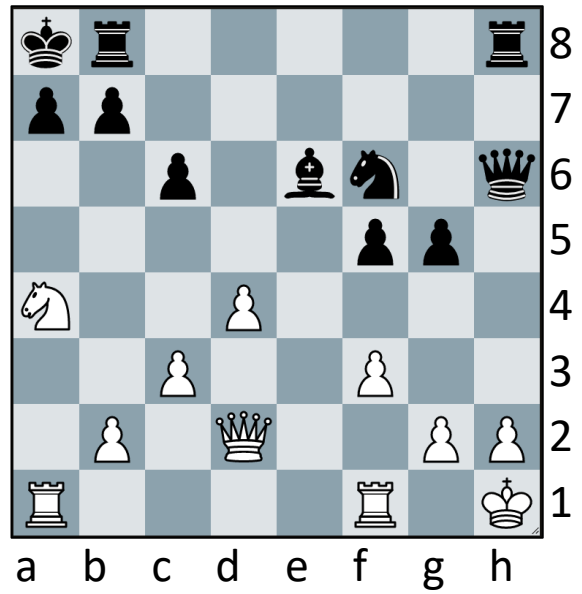
Mega

In the diagrams below it is white to play and checkmate in one move. Look out for pins and discovered attacks!

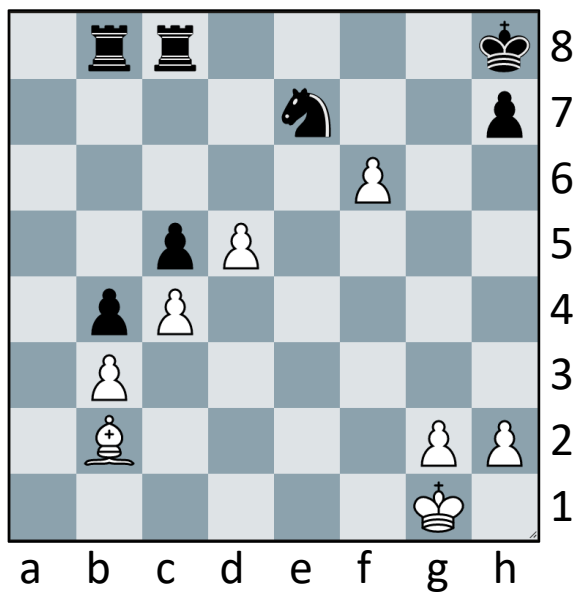
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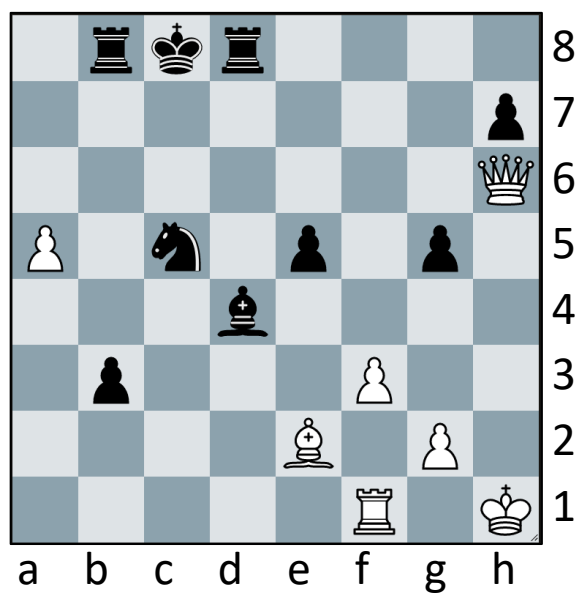
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2



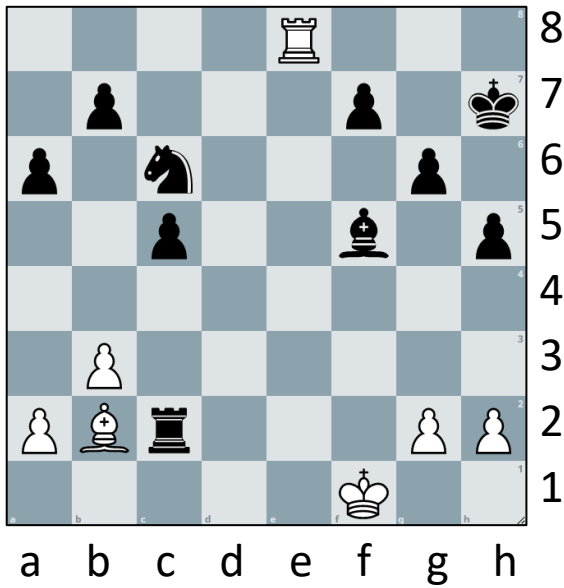
4



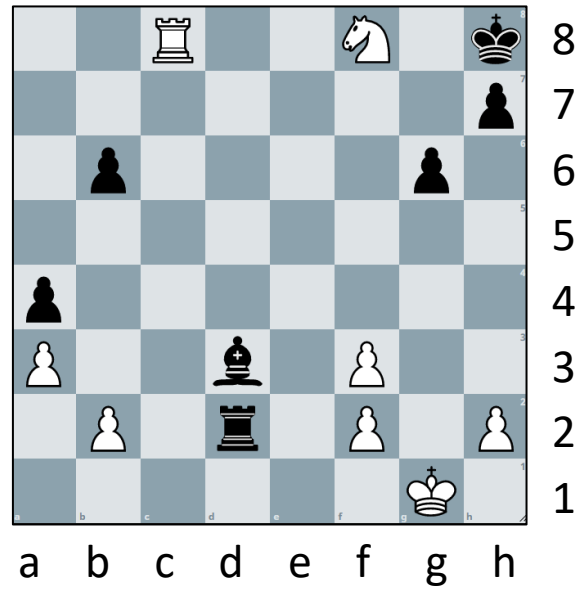
Mega

In the diagrams below it is white to play and checkmate in one move. In one puzzle there is a discovered check.

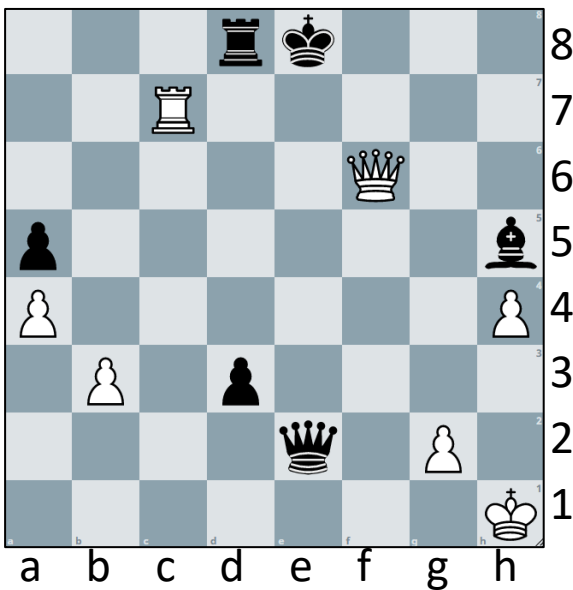
1



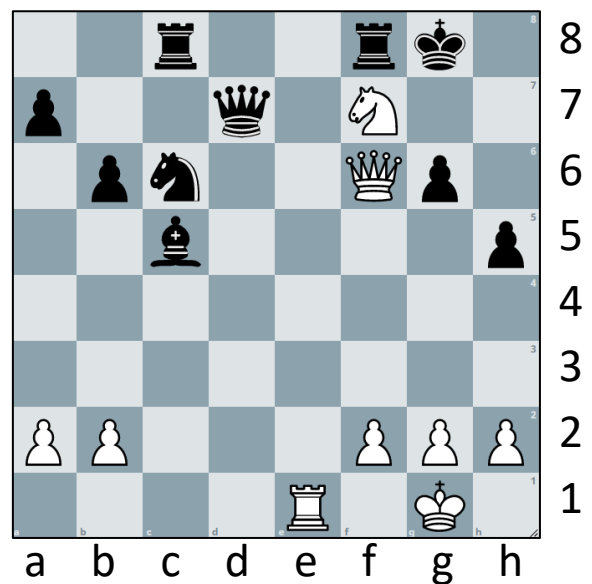
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2

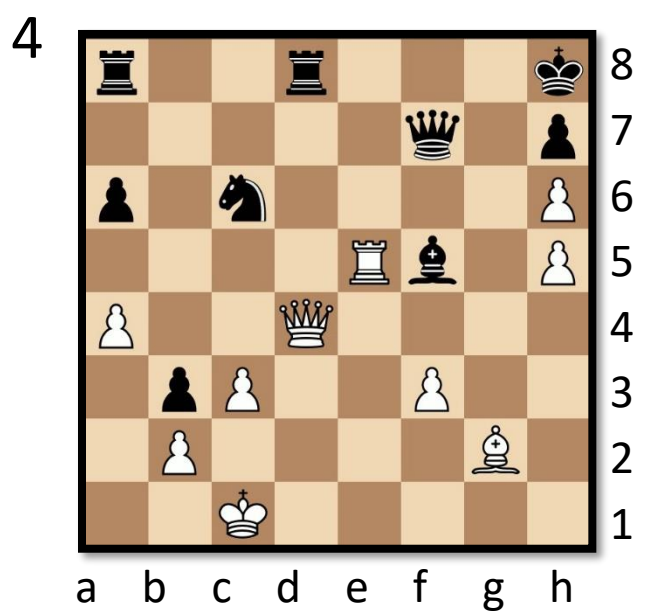
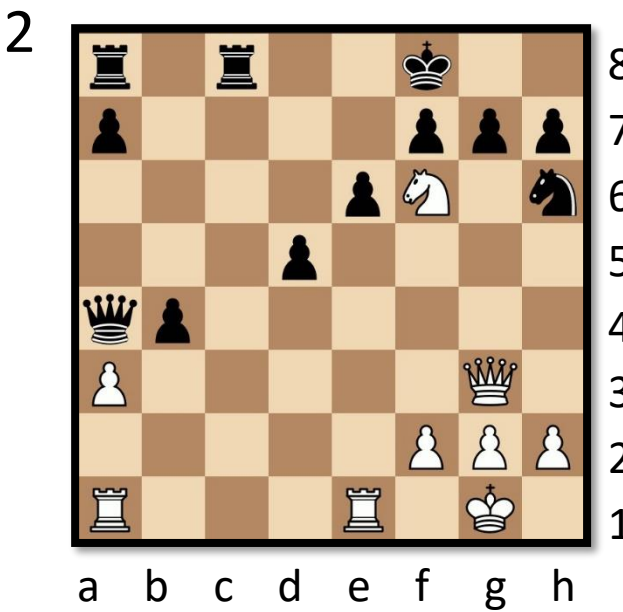
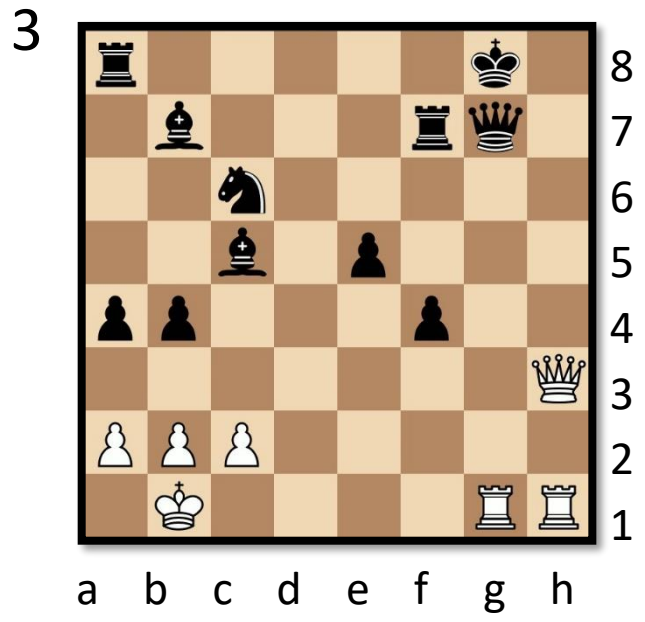
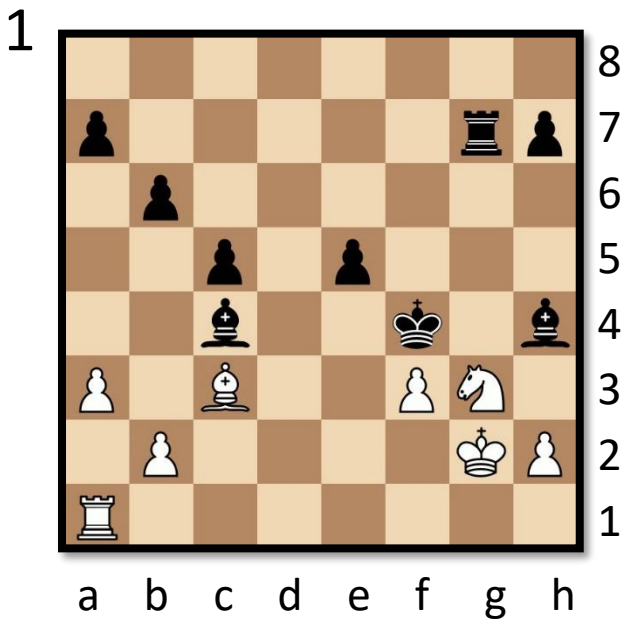


4



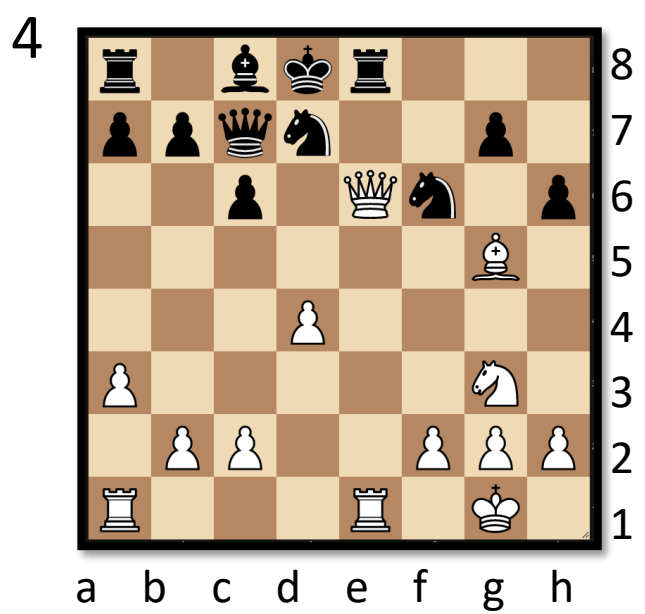
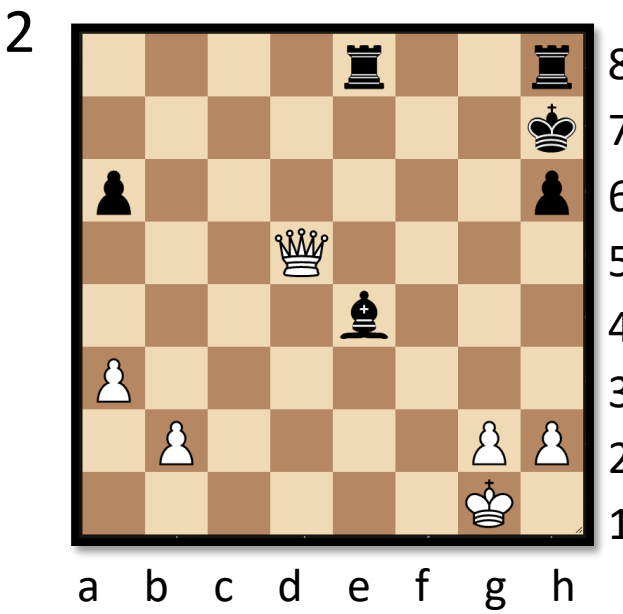
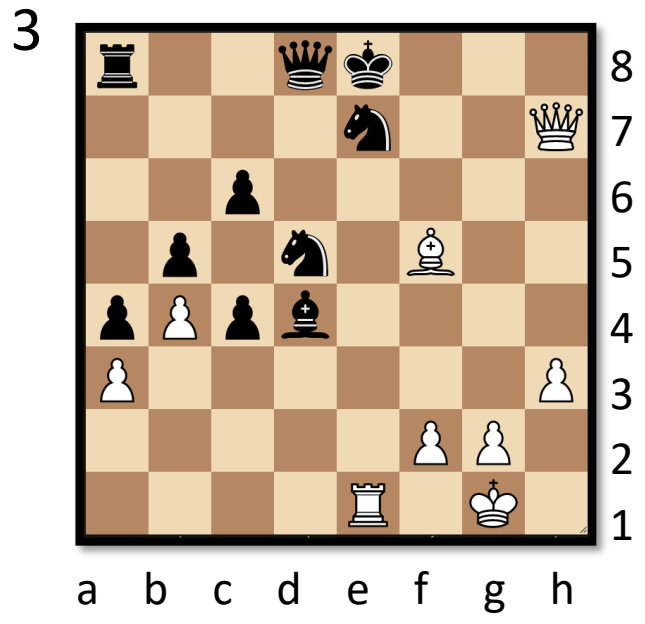
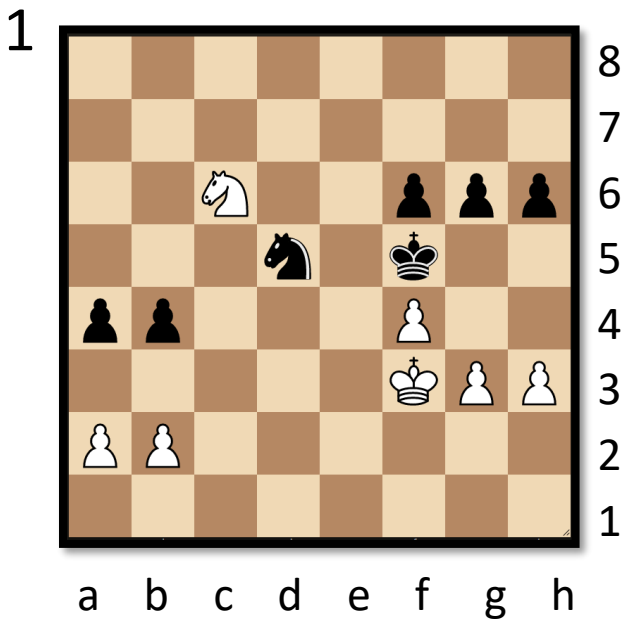
Mega

White to play and checkmate in one move! Look out for pins and double checks...



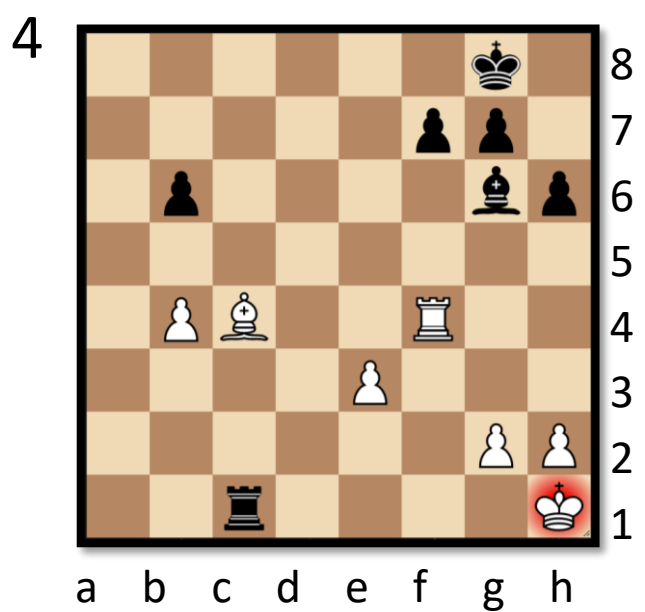
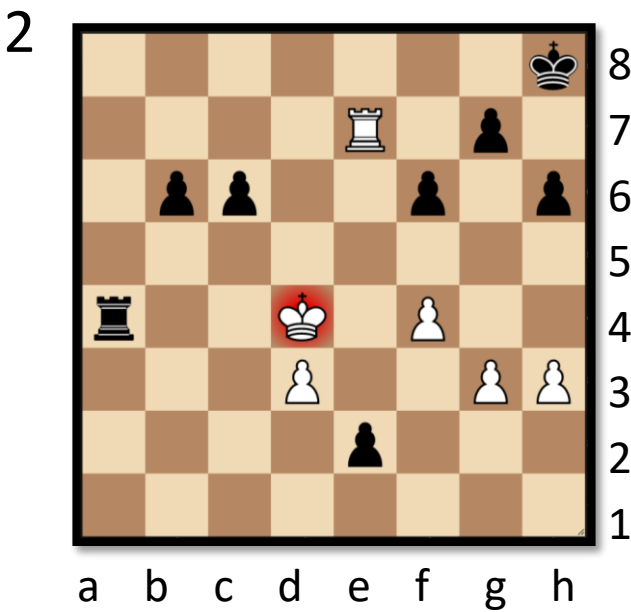
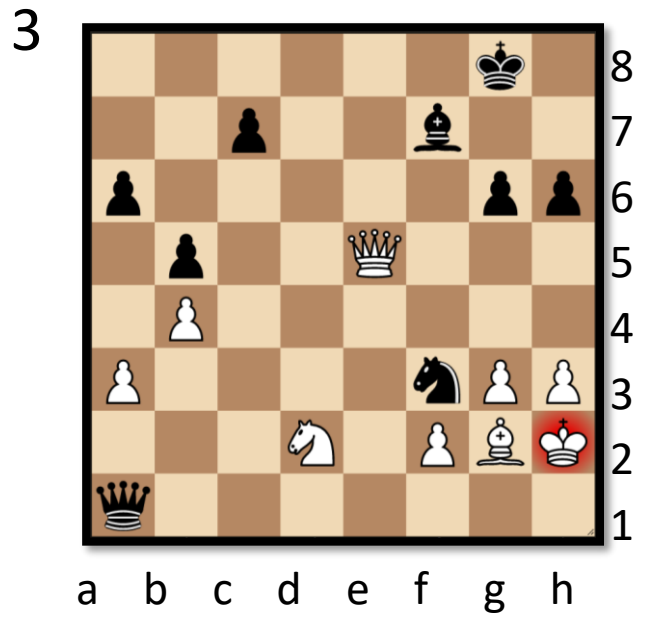
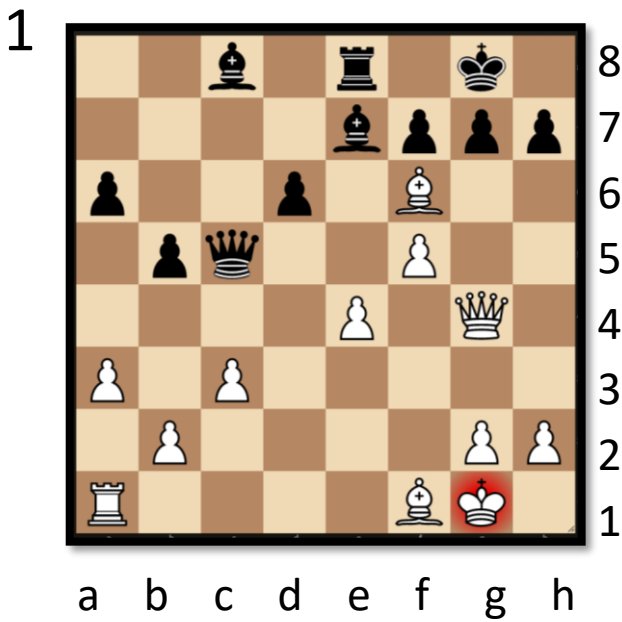
Mega

White to play and checkmate in one move! Look out for pins!



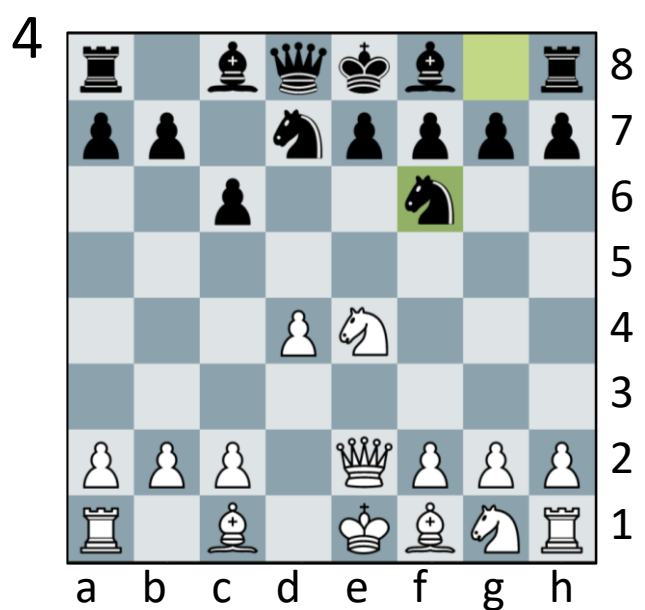
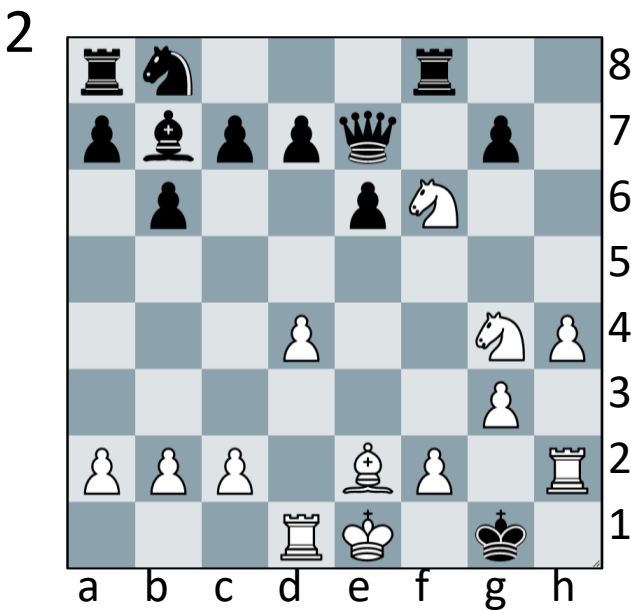
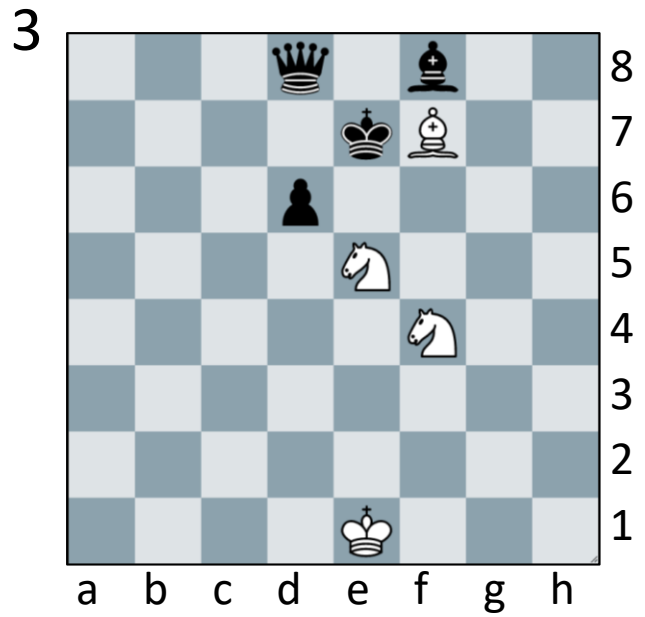
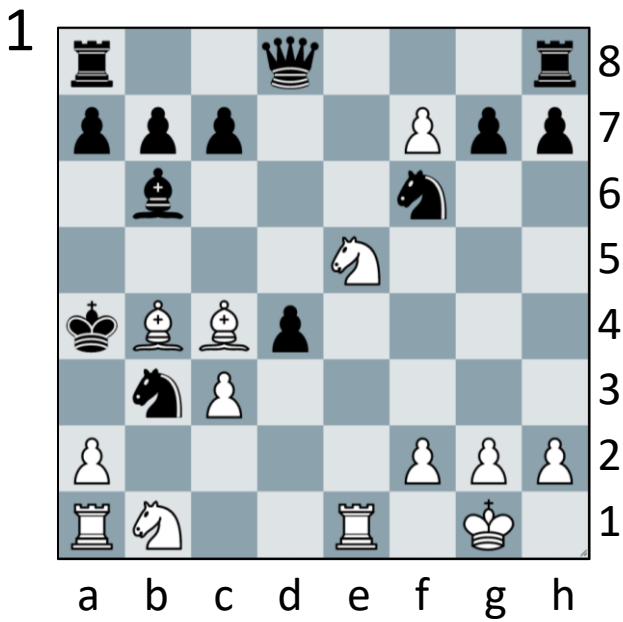
Mega

In the following positions the white king is in check – find the BEST way to escape the check.



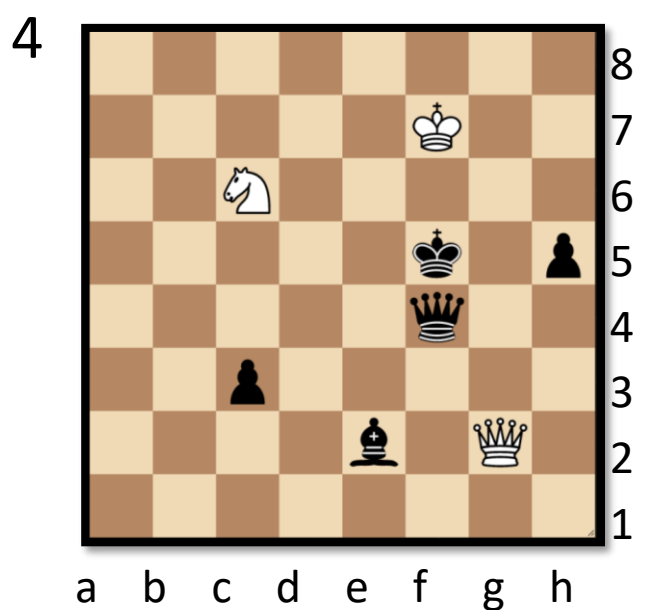
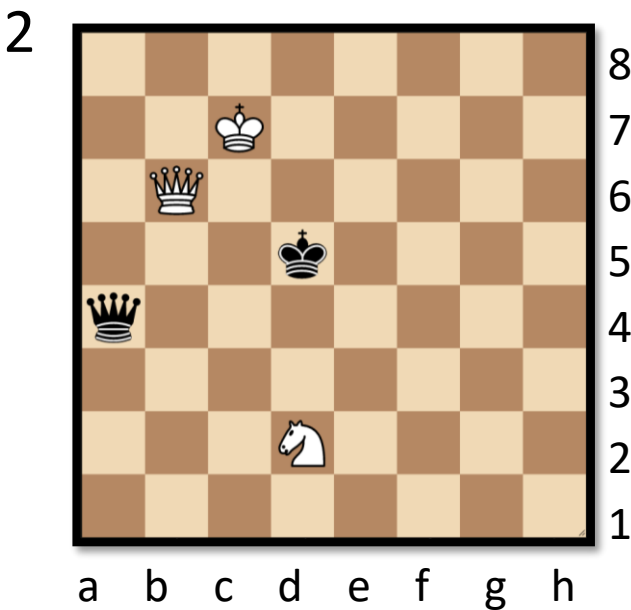
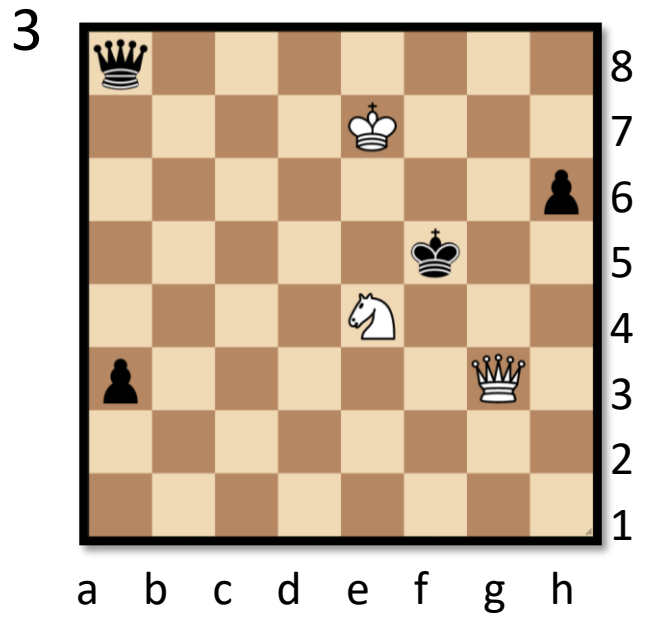
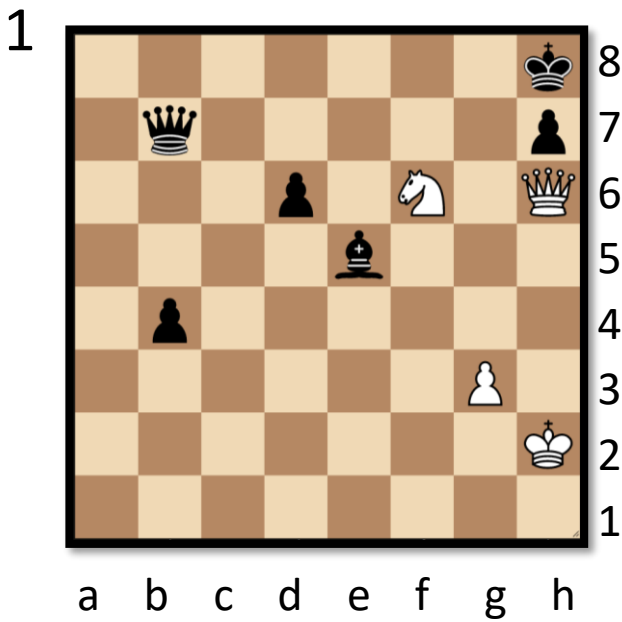
Mega

In the diagrams below it is white to play and checkmate in one move. There is one puzzle with a discovered check and another makes use of pin.



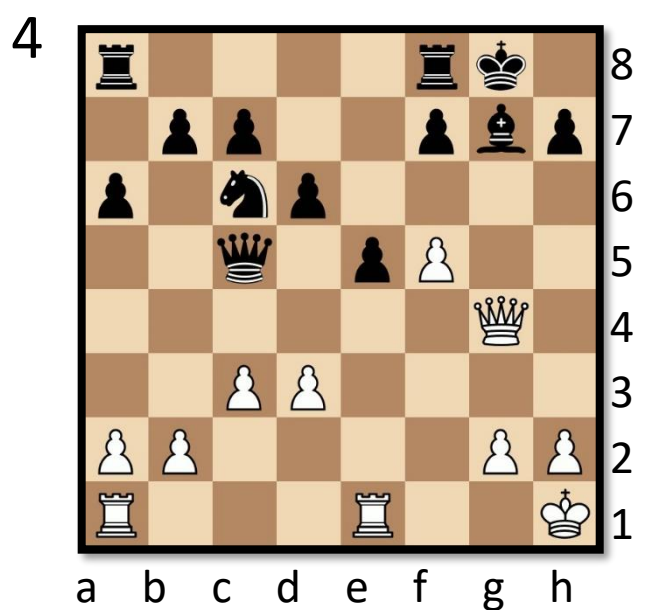
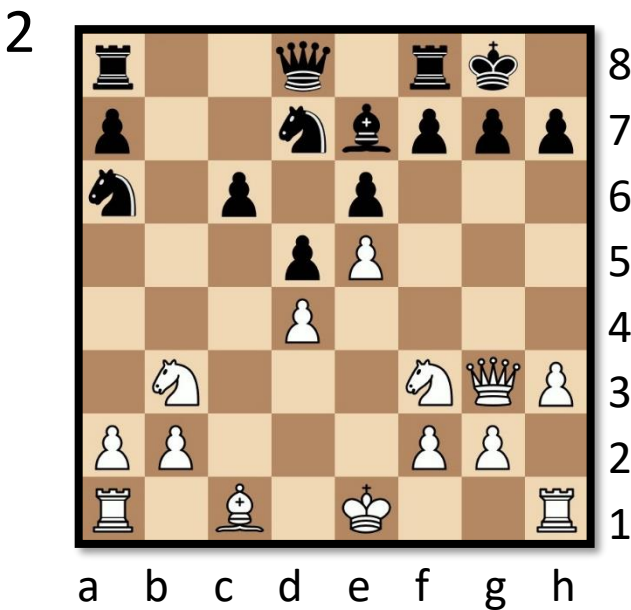
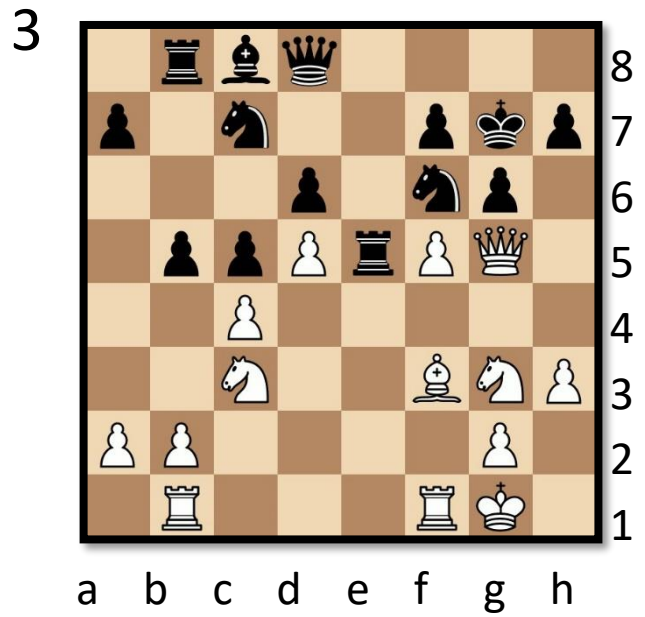
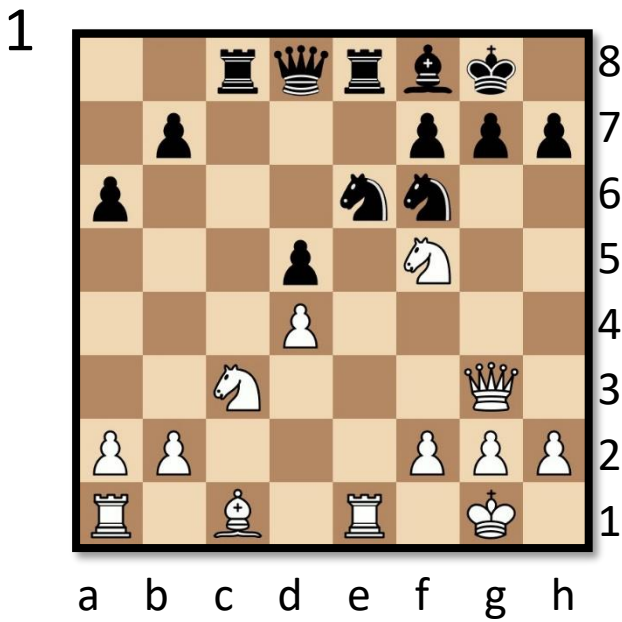
Mega

In each position it is white to checkmate in one move. These examples show the power of the queen and knight working together, sometimes helped by the king.



Mega

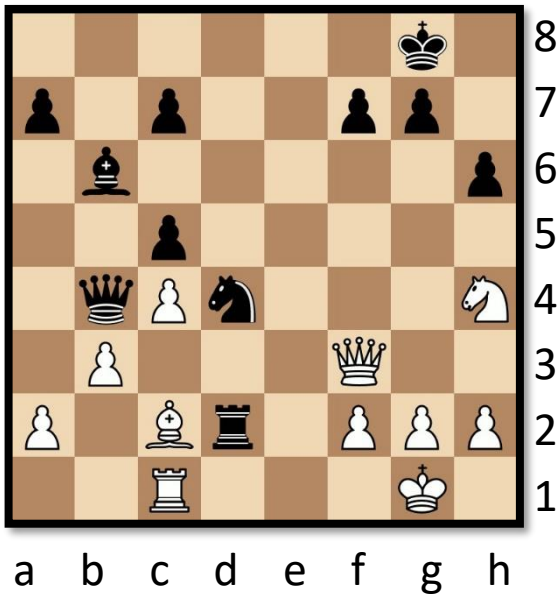
In each diagram it is white to move. Find the move or sequence of moves that leads to winning material or even checkmate.



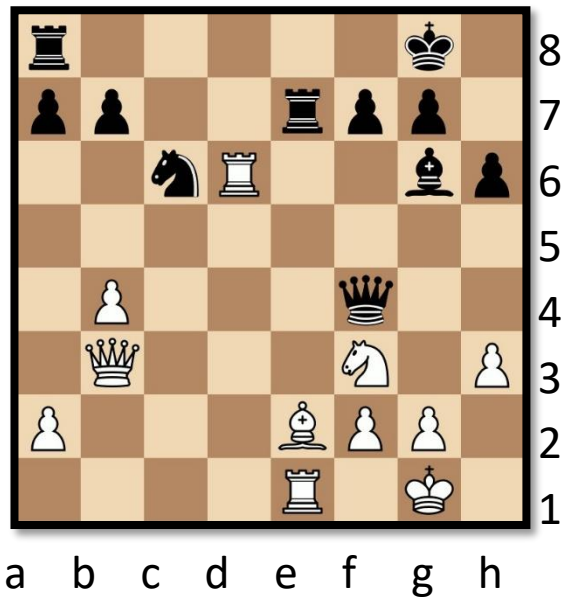
Mega

In each diagram it is white to move. Find the best move in the position – it may either lead to checkmate or a decisive gain in material.

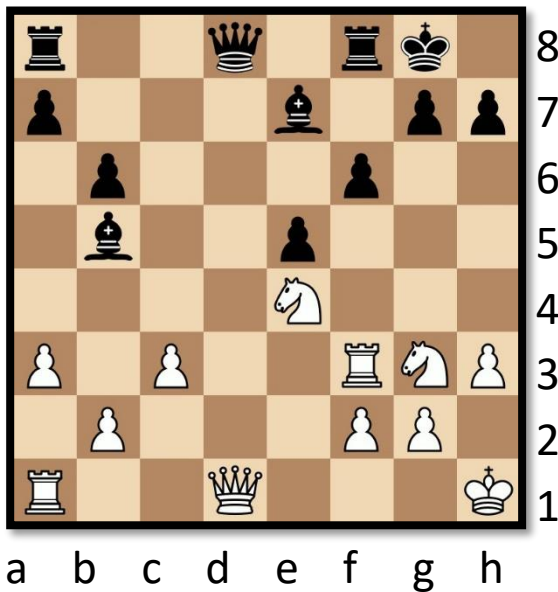
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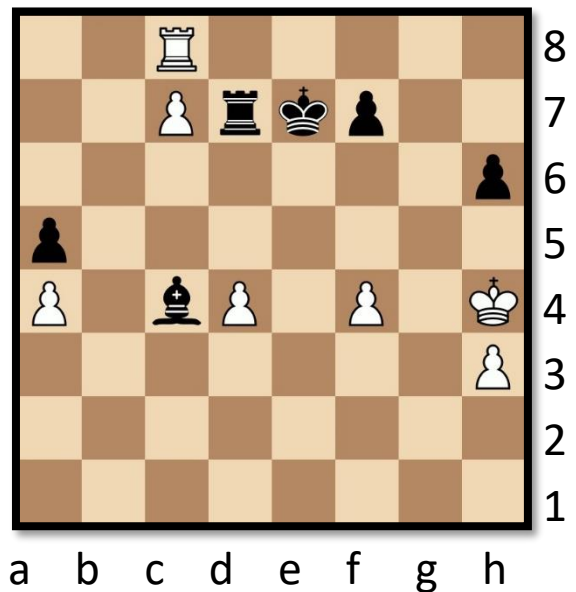
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2

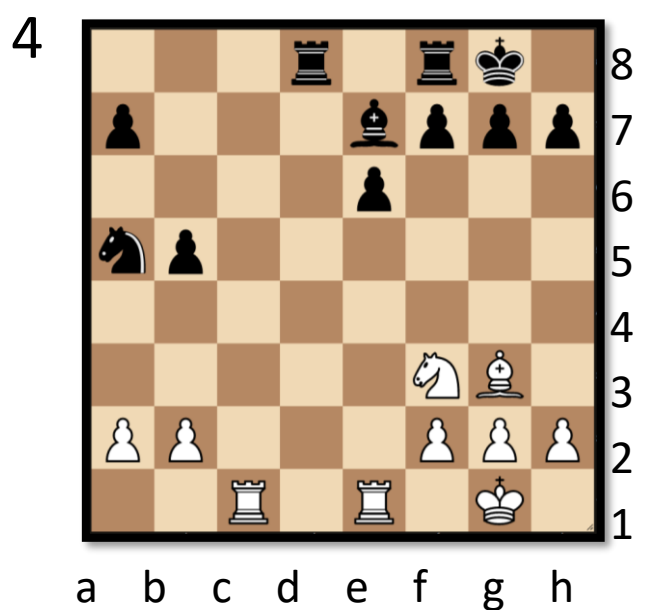
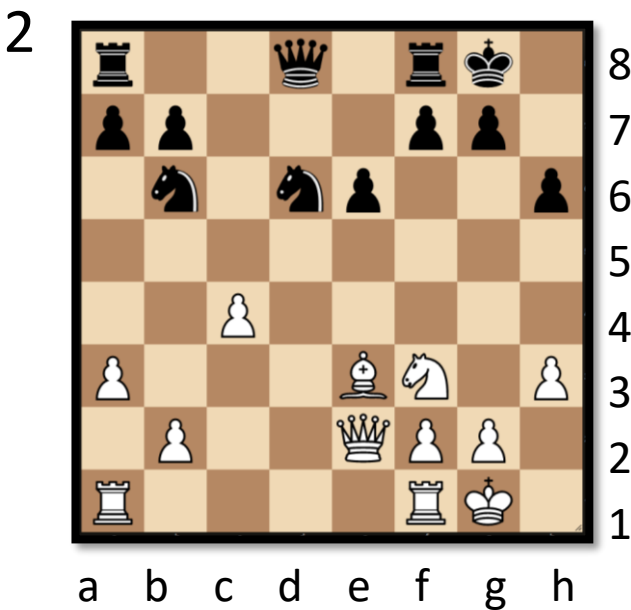
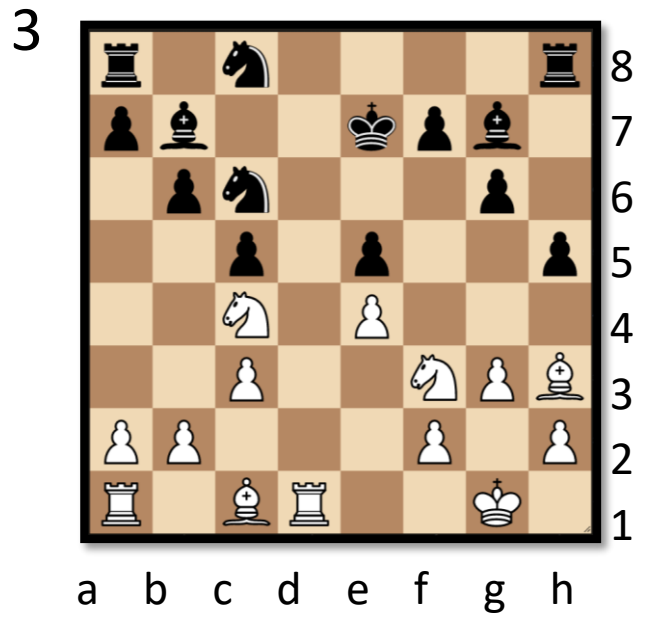
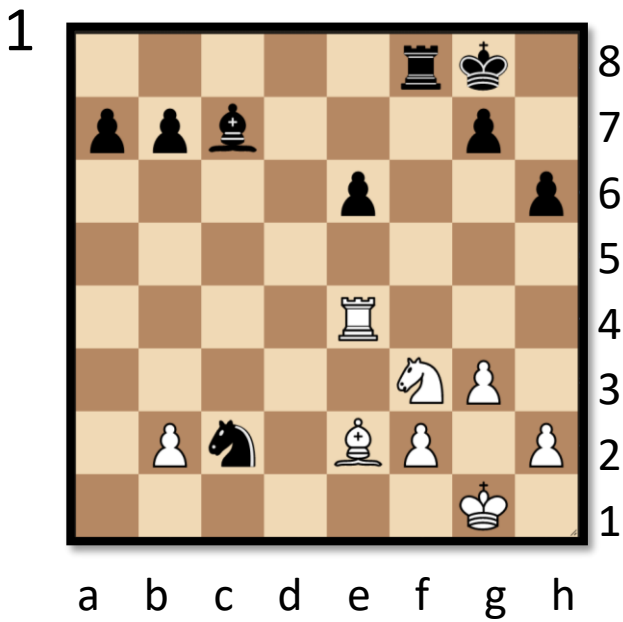


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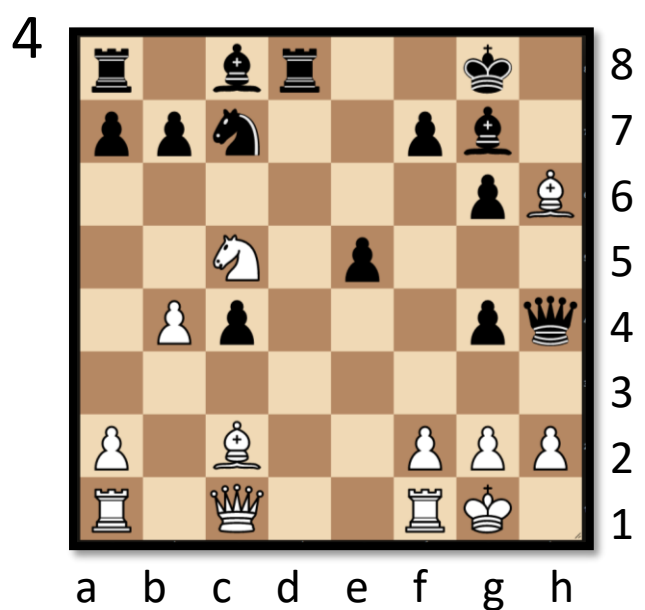
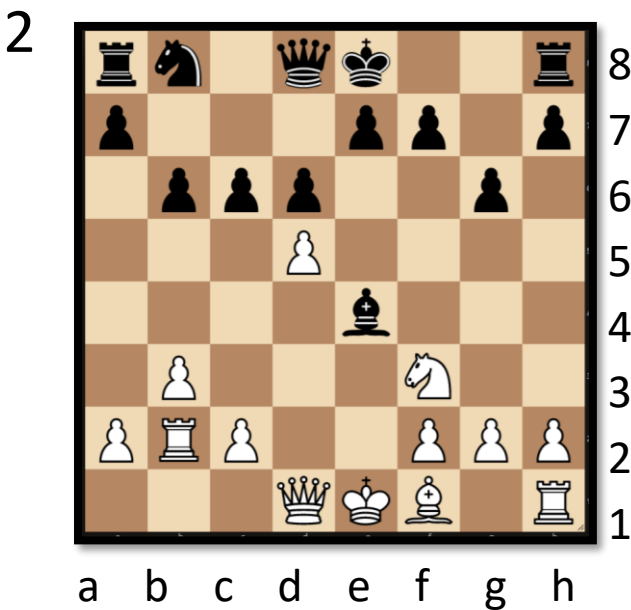
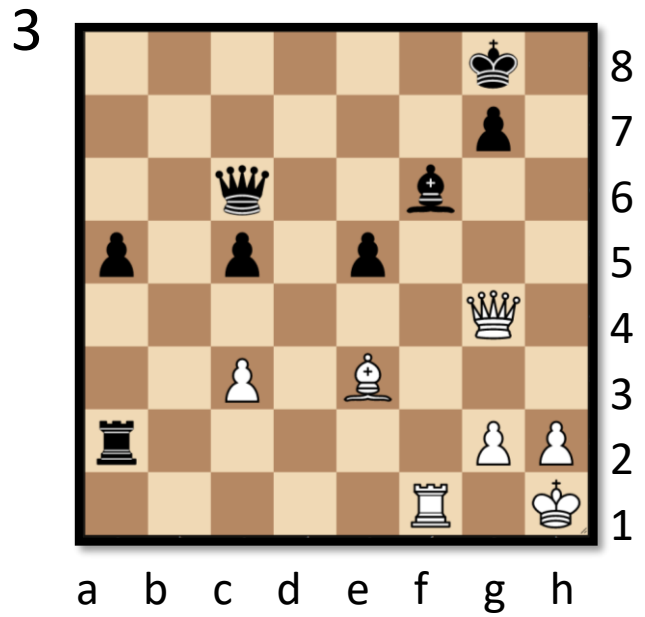
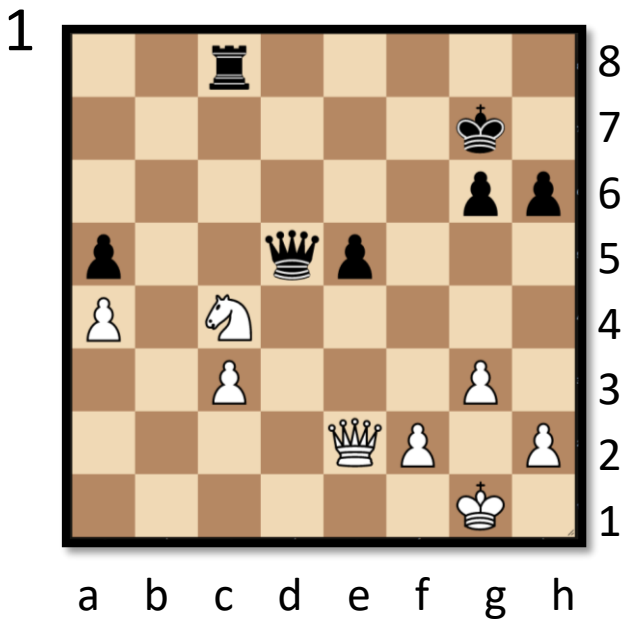
Mega

In each position it is white to play and find a FORK which wins material. Remember a FORK is where we attack more than one piece with a single move.



Mega

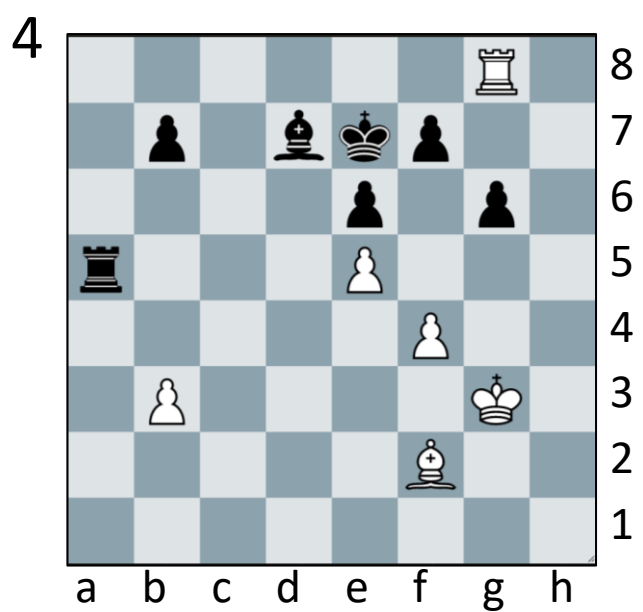
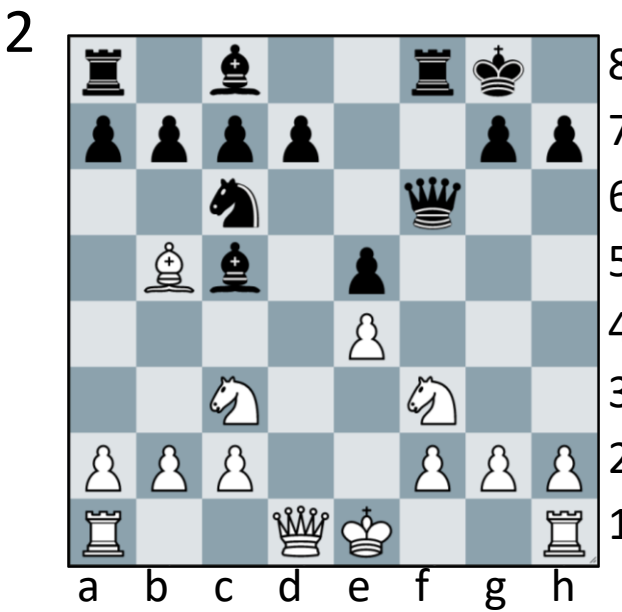
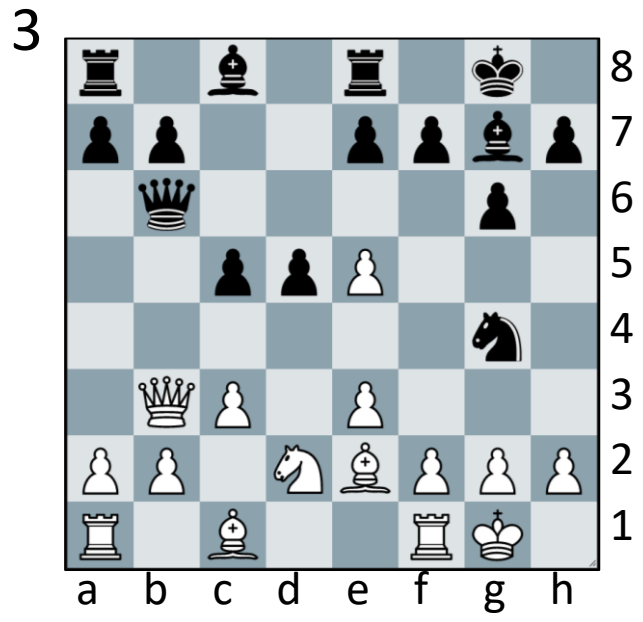
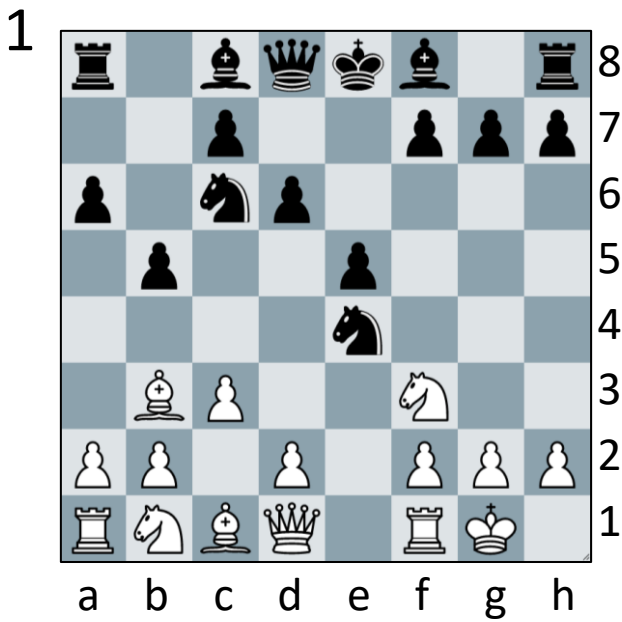
White to play and win material. All of the combinations involve a fork – ie a double attack.



Mega

In the diagrams below it is white play. Your task is to find a move which wins material. The theme of the puzzles is “Double Attack”.

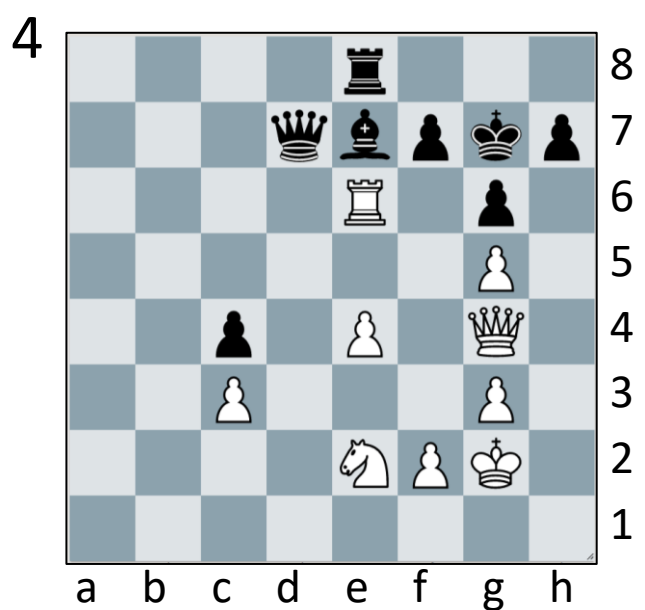
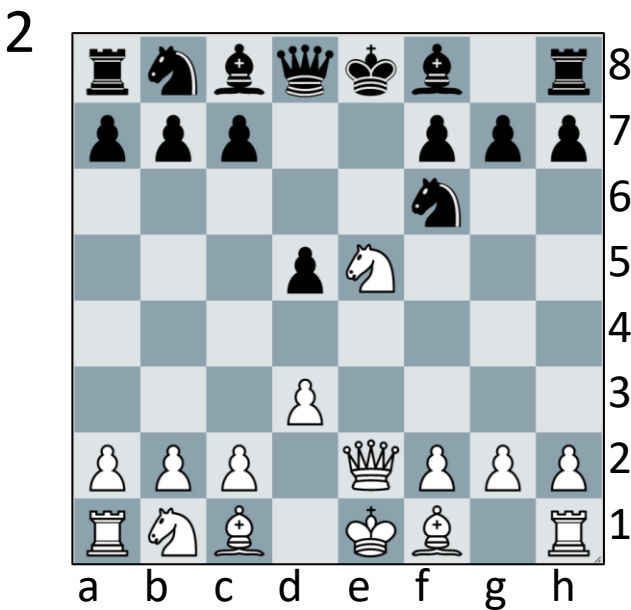
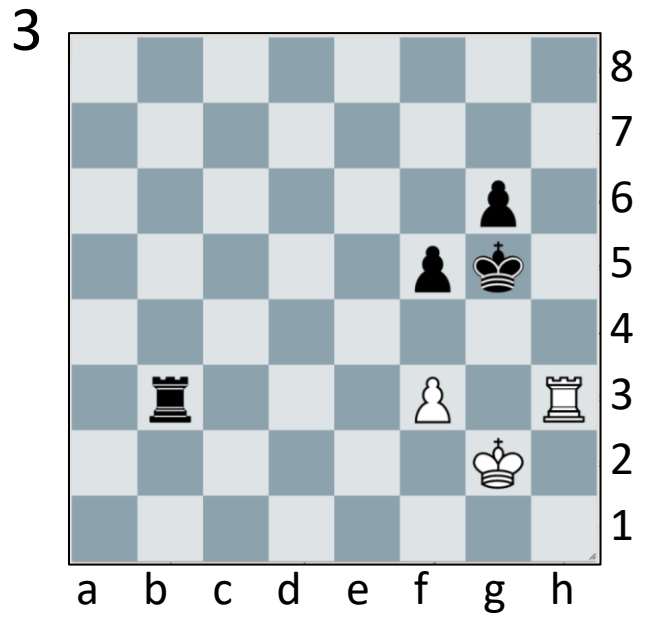
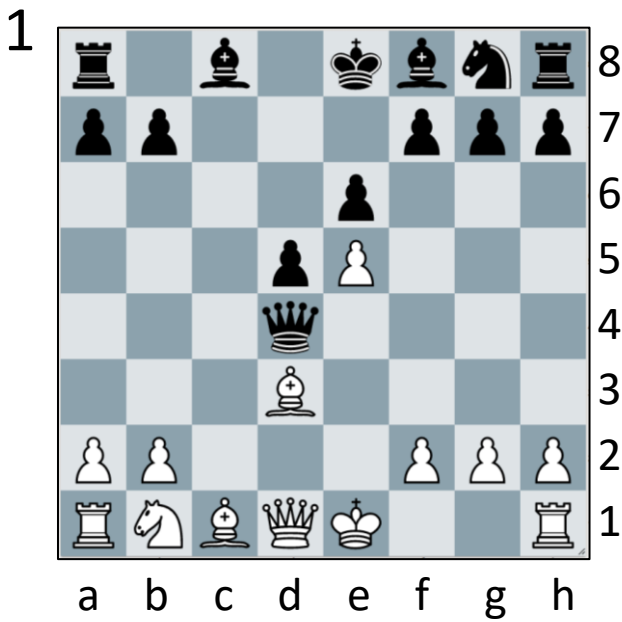
A Double Attack (or “Fork”) is perhaps the most common tactic in chess and is essential for players of all levels to understand.



Mega

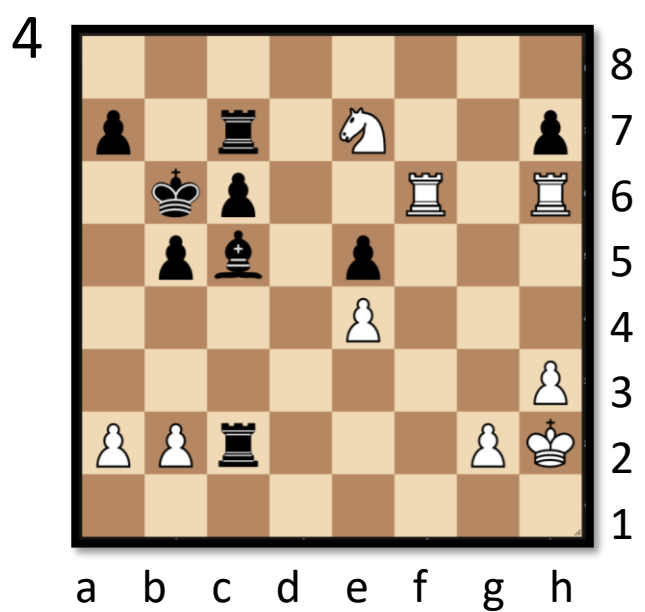
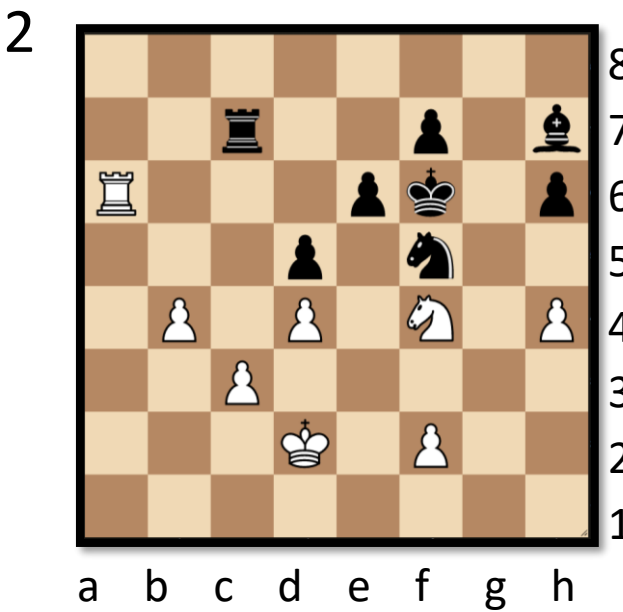
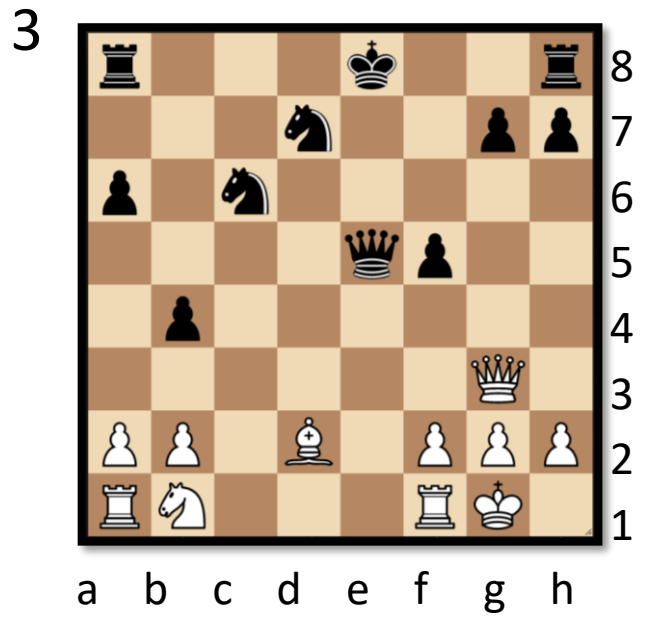
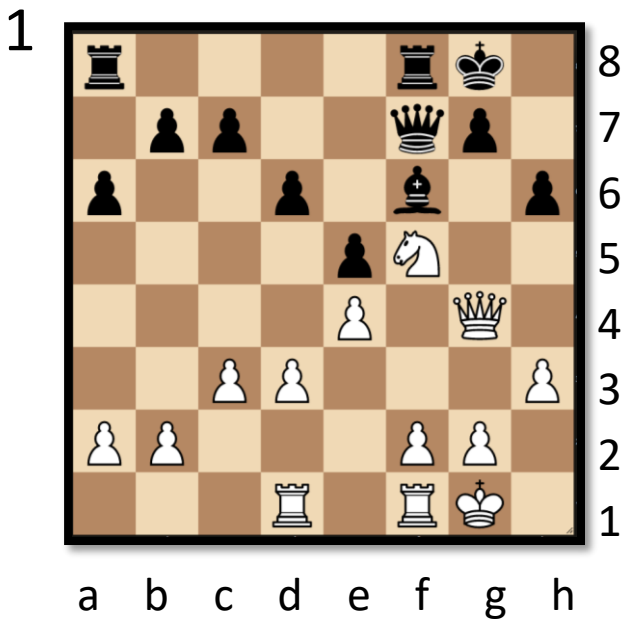
In the diagrams below it is white play. Your task is to find a move which wins material. The theme of the puzzles is “Discovered Attack”.

In a Discovered Attack the front piece moves out of the way to reveal an attack by a piece behind it. If the front piece also attacks a piece then this is a form of double attack.



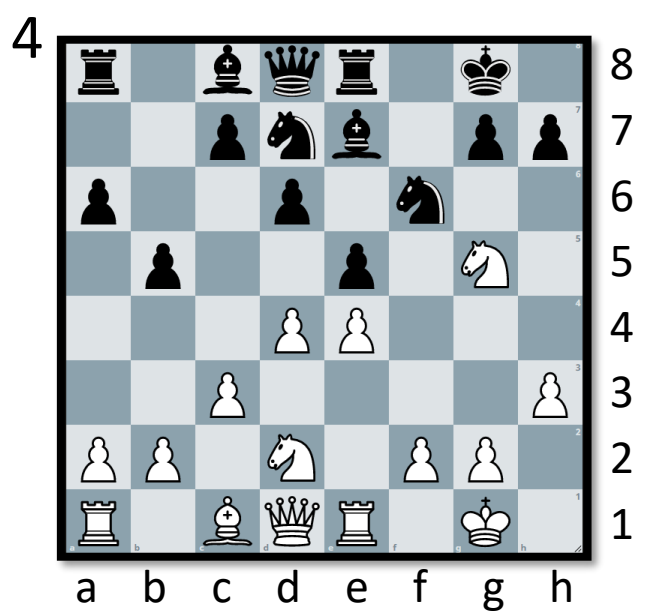
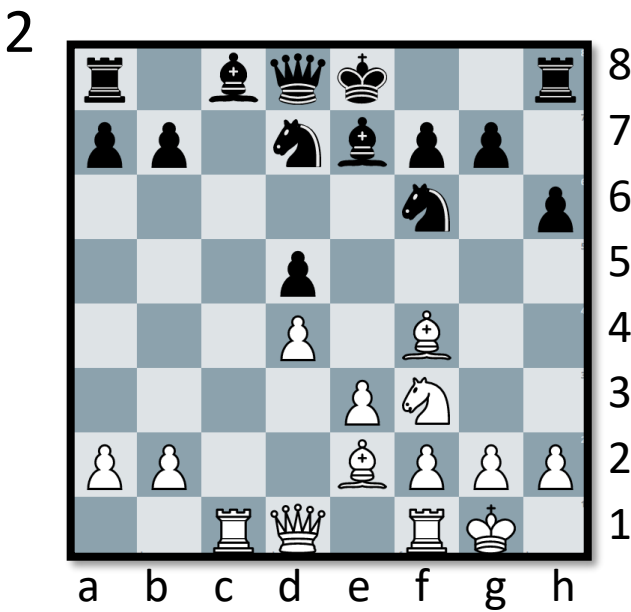
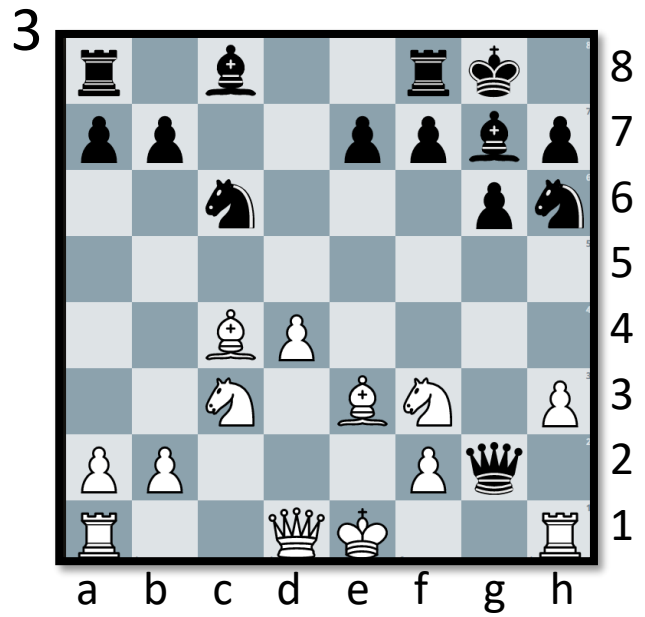
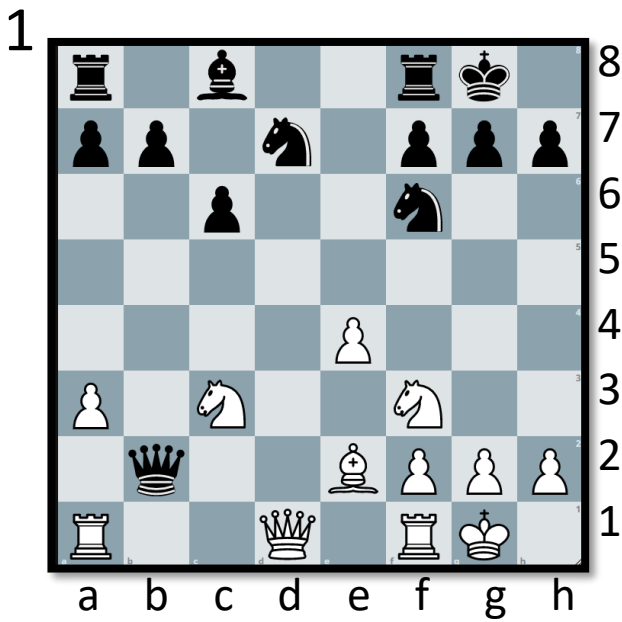
Mega

White to play and win material. All of the combinations involve a “pin”. [Wikipedia definition](#)



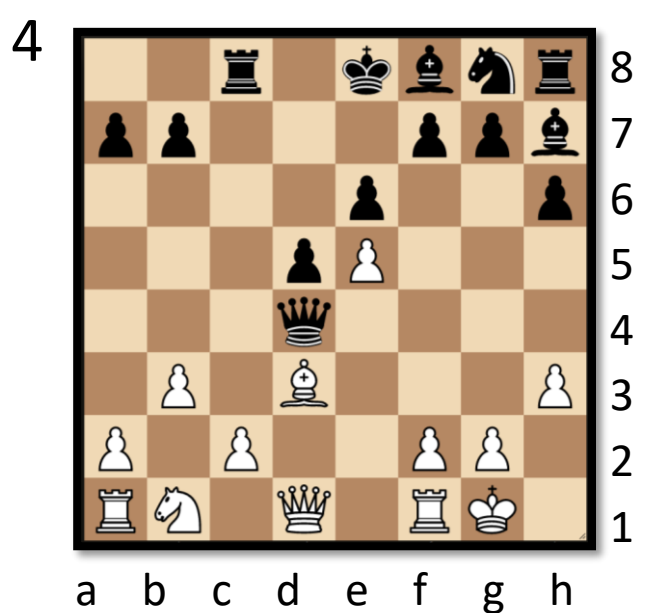
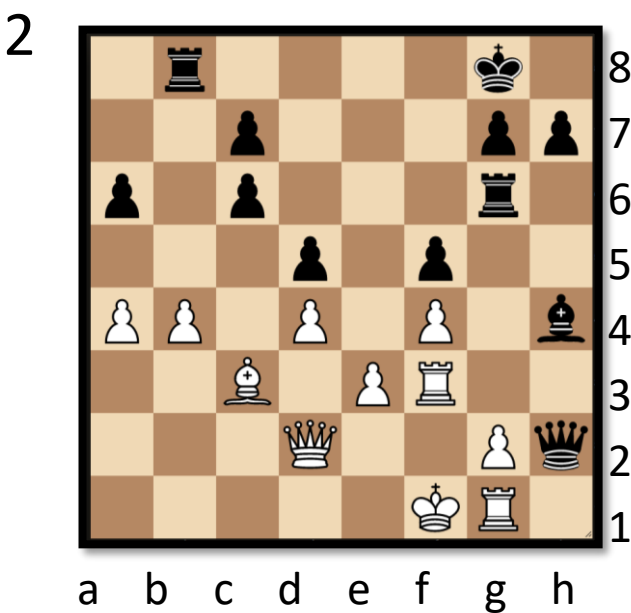
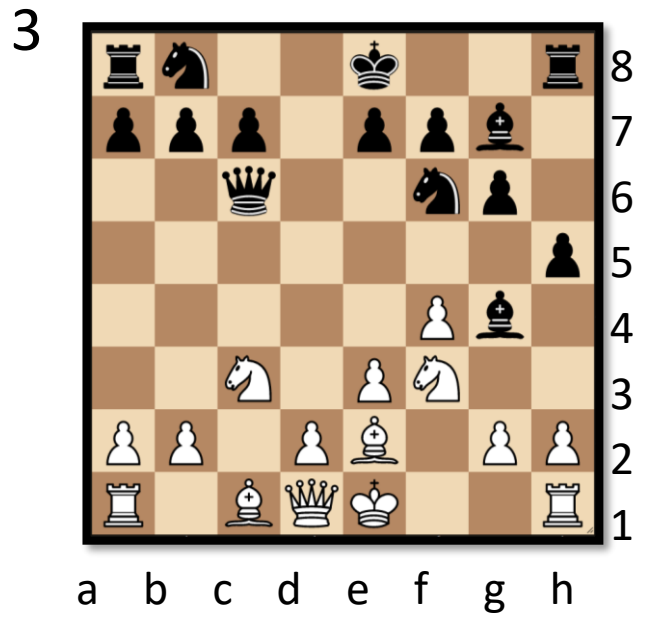
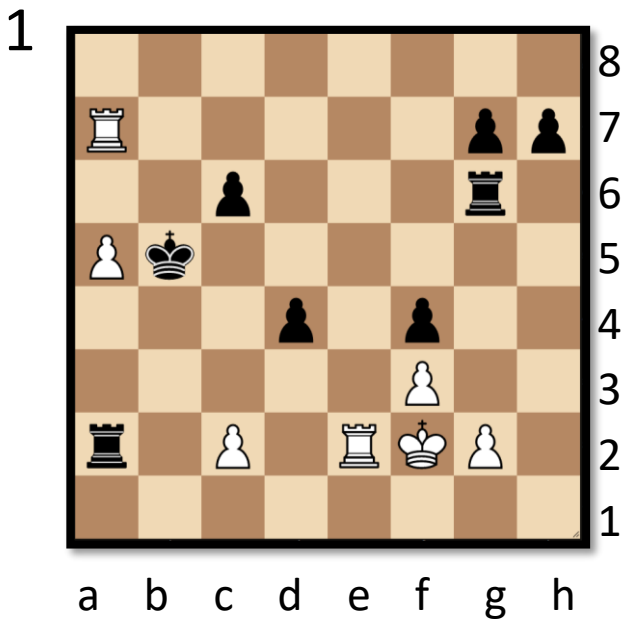
Mega

Trap the pesky black queen so it can be captured on the next move.



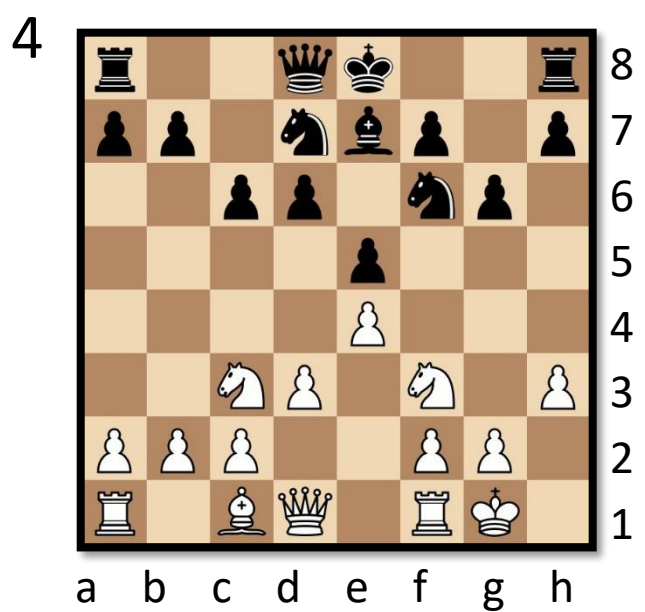
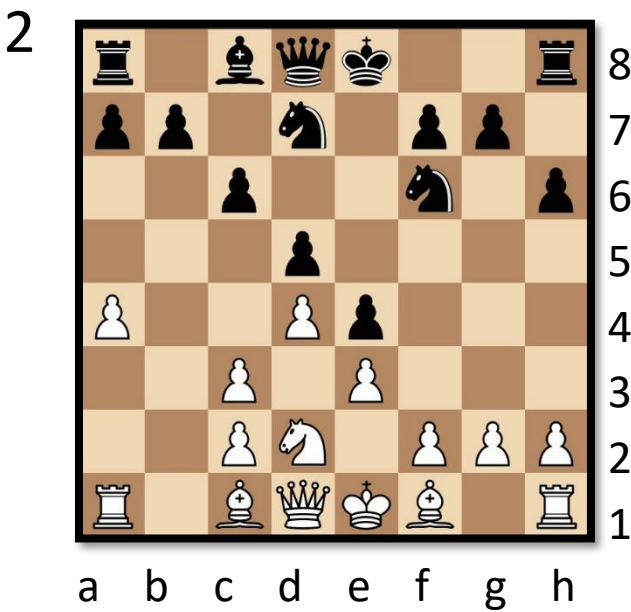
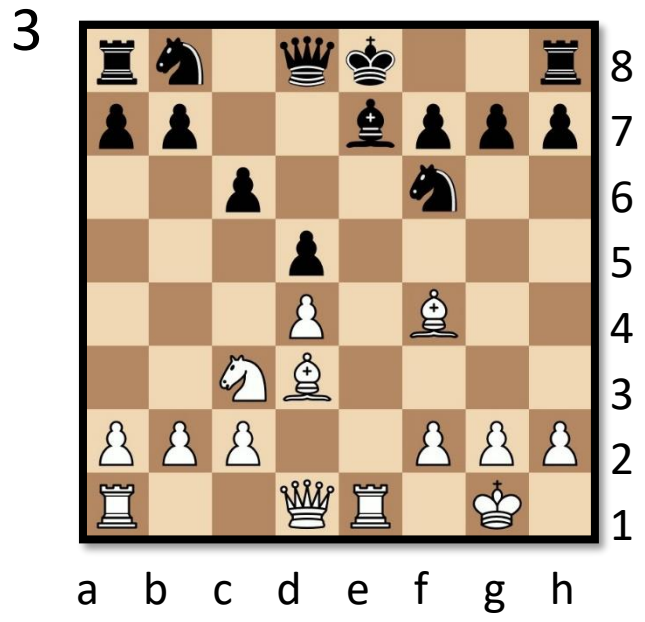
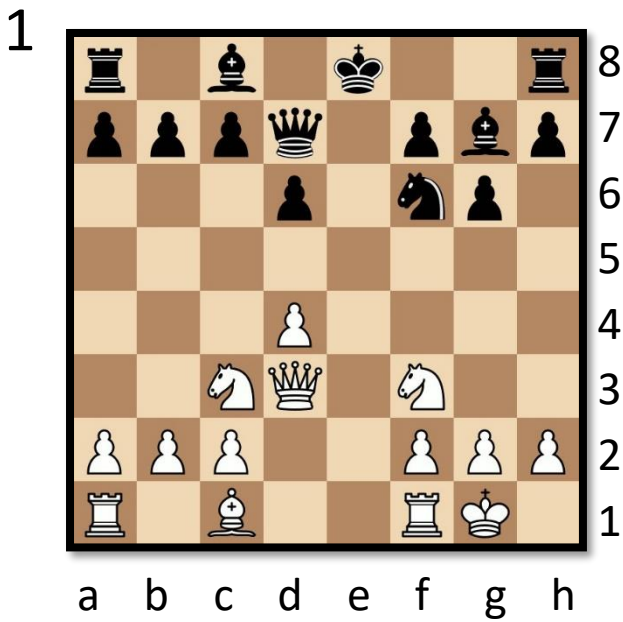
Mega

White to play and win material. A variety of tactical themes including discovered attack, pins and trapping.



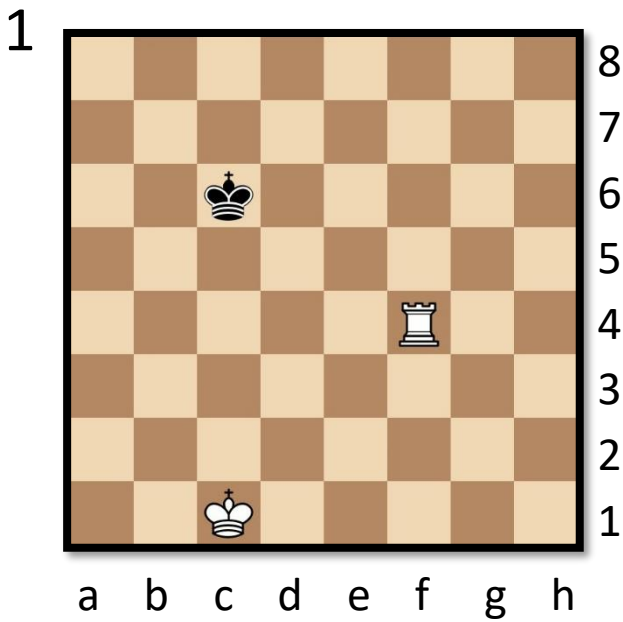
Mega

Getting the king safely castling is often one of our top objectives in the opening. In each diagram it is white to move. Your task is to prevent black from castling – or at least to discourage it!

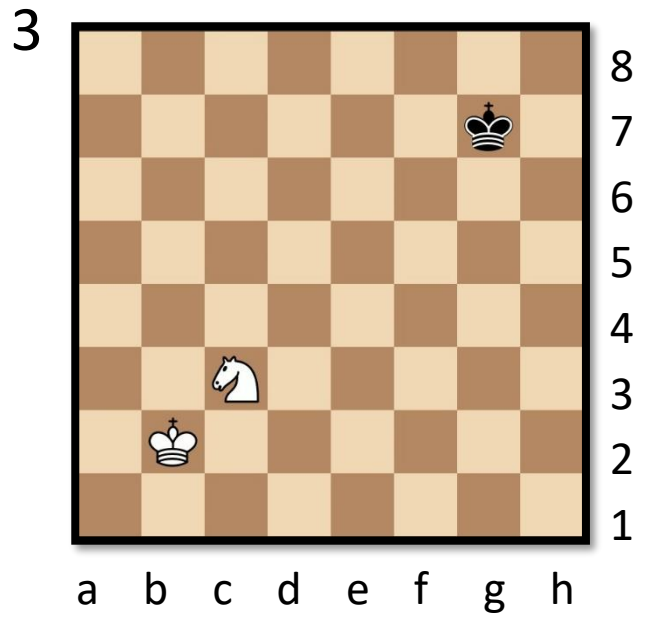


Mega

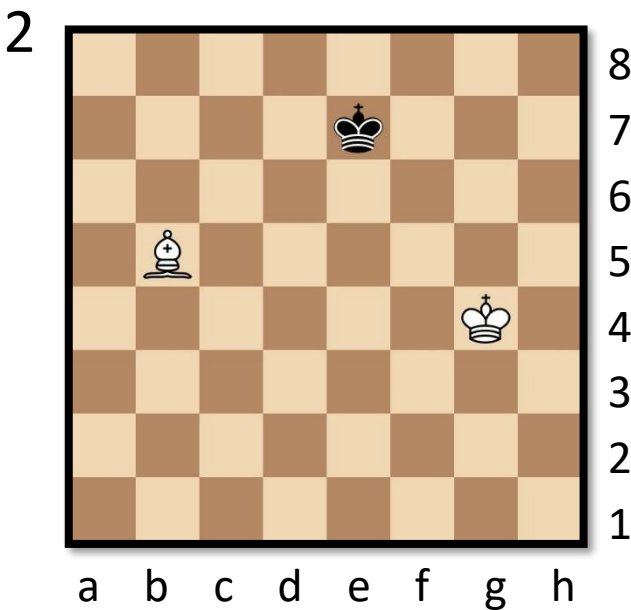
In each diagram it is white to move – you must determine what the correct result should be with best play (white win, black win or a draw). No need to calculate variations – just write the result.



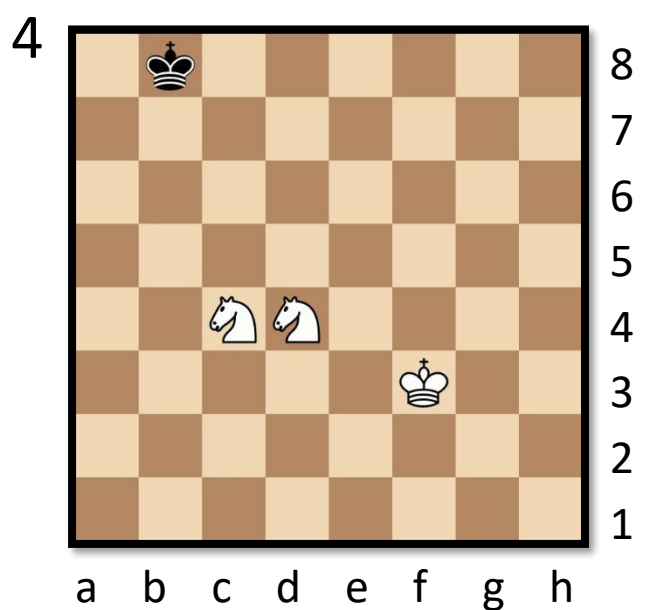
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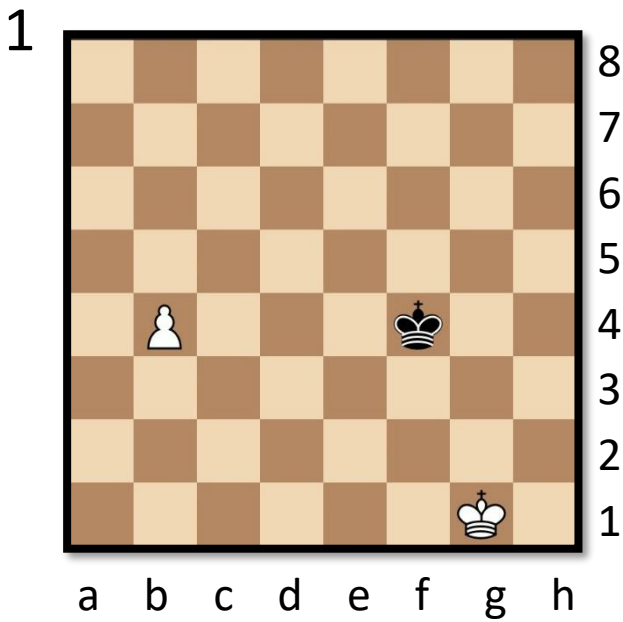
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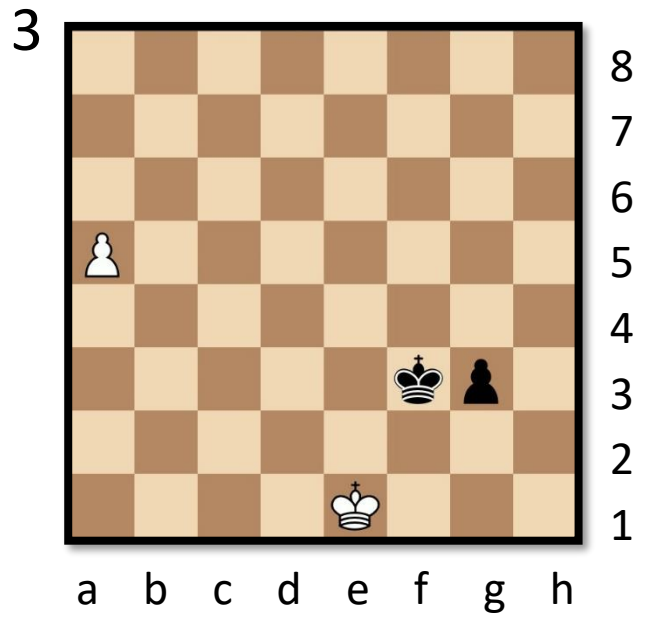
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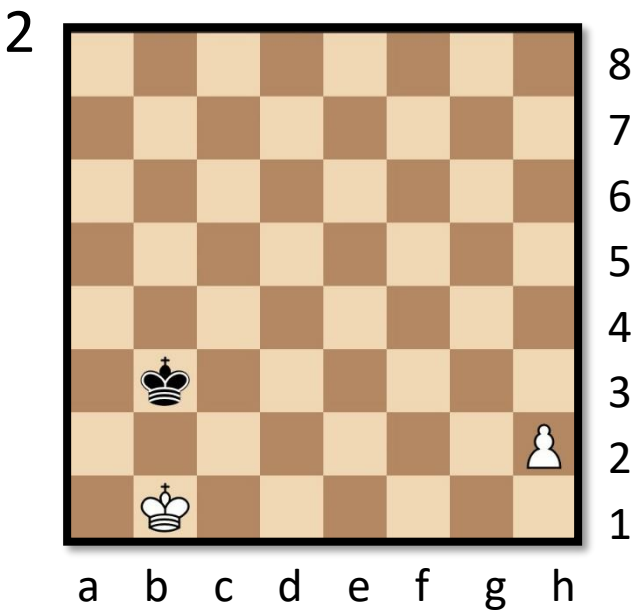
Today we are focusing on pawn endgames. In each diagram it is white to move – you must determine what the correct result should be with best play (white win, black win or a draw). Try and write down your main variation as well.



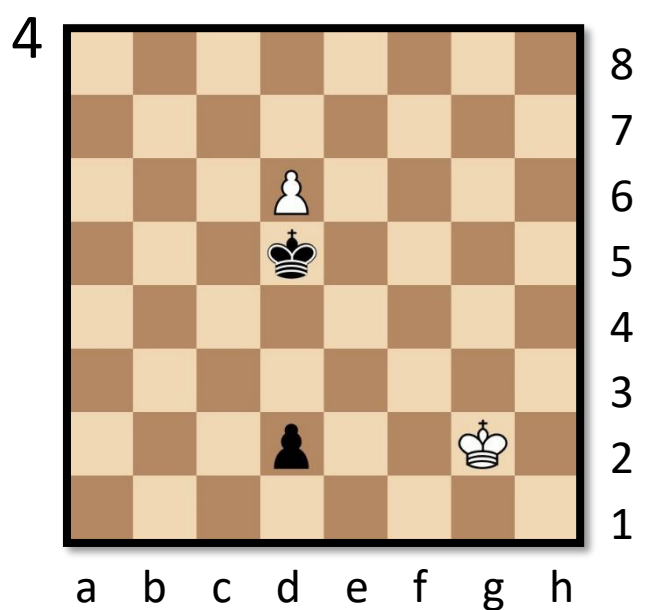
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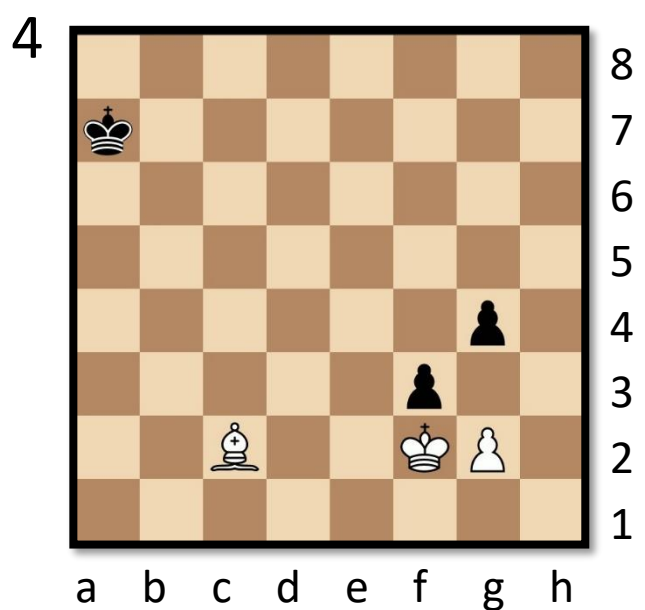
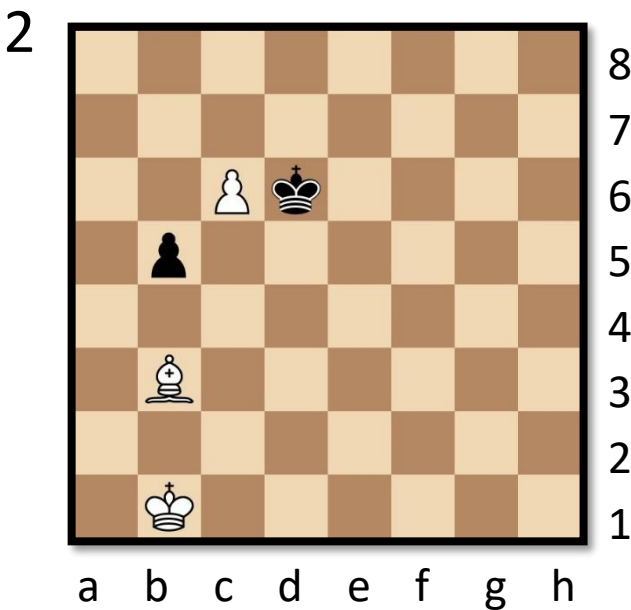
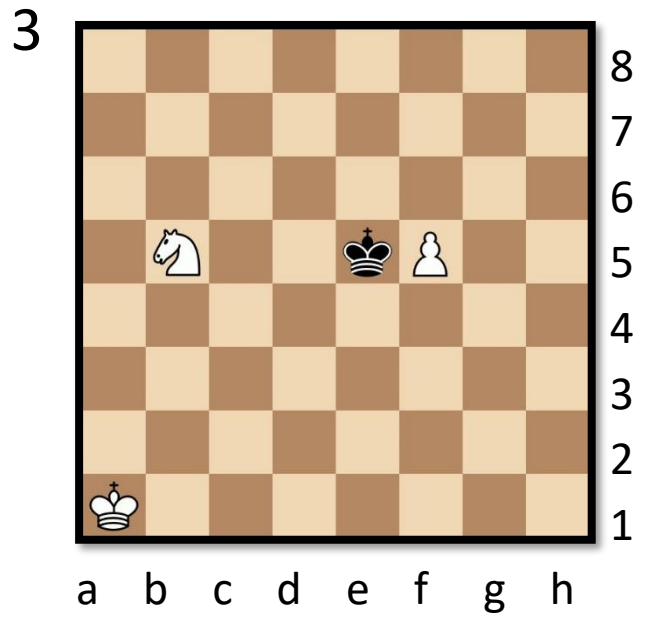
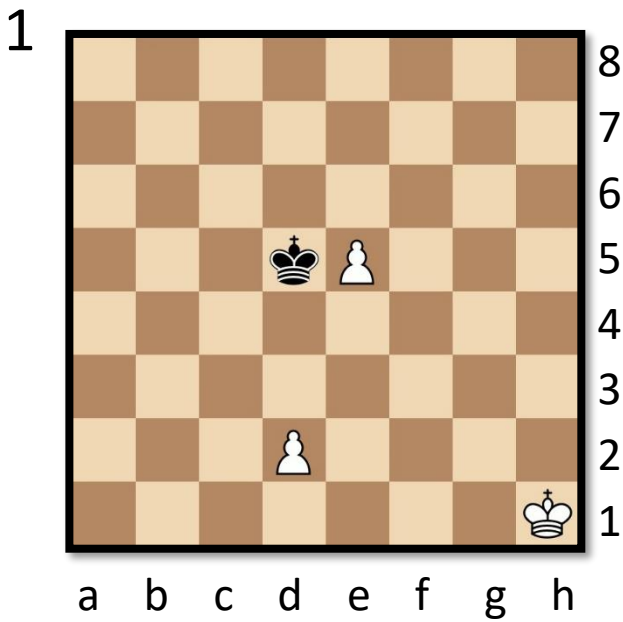
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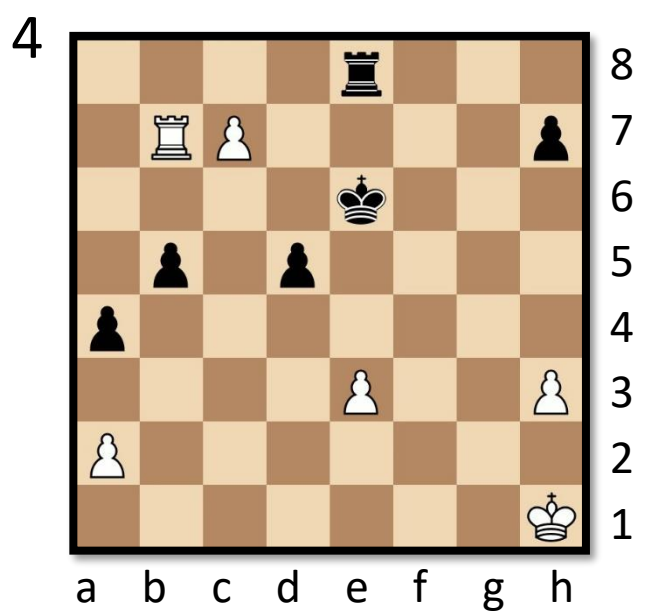
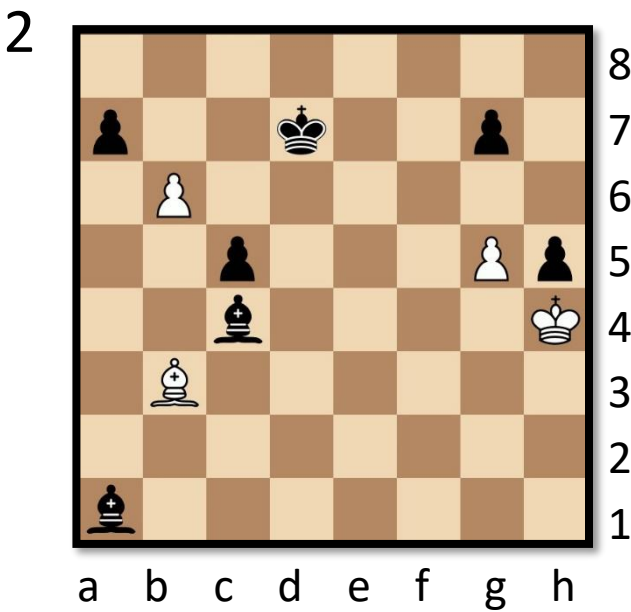
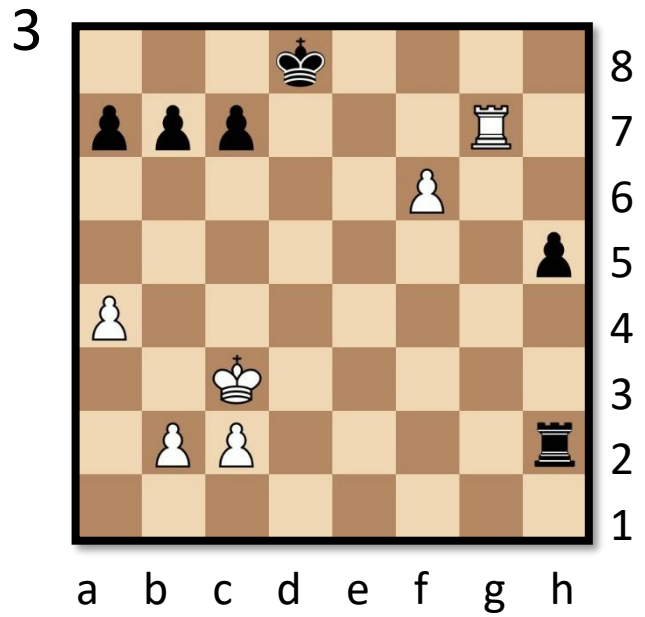
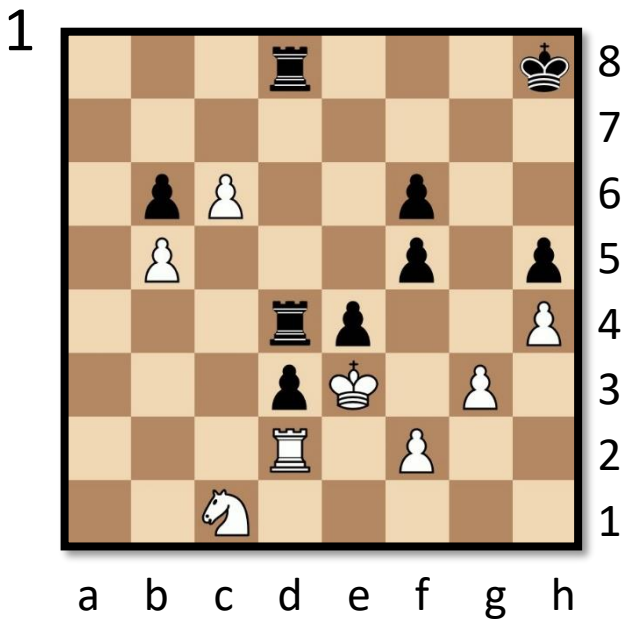
Mega

In each diagram it is white to move and win. White needs to keep at least 1 pawn on the board to win – so choose carefully!



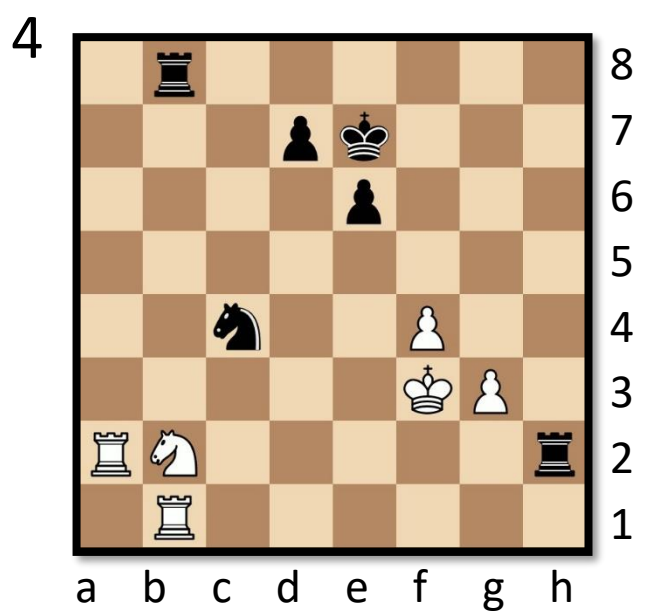
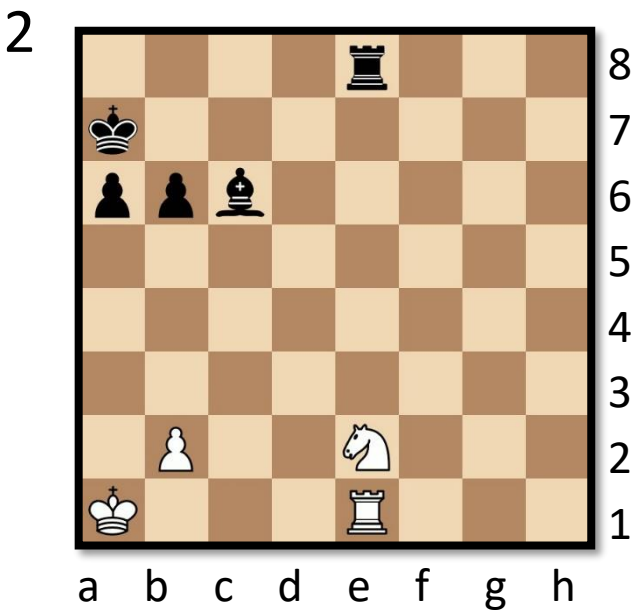
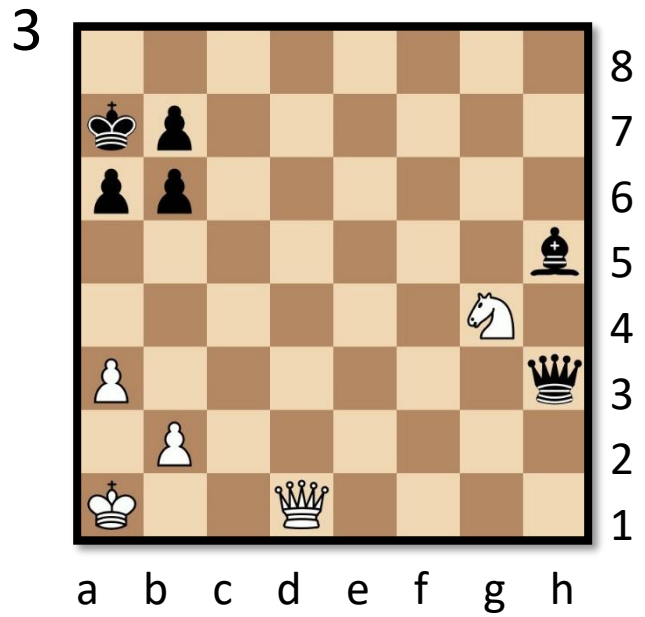
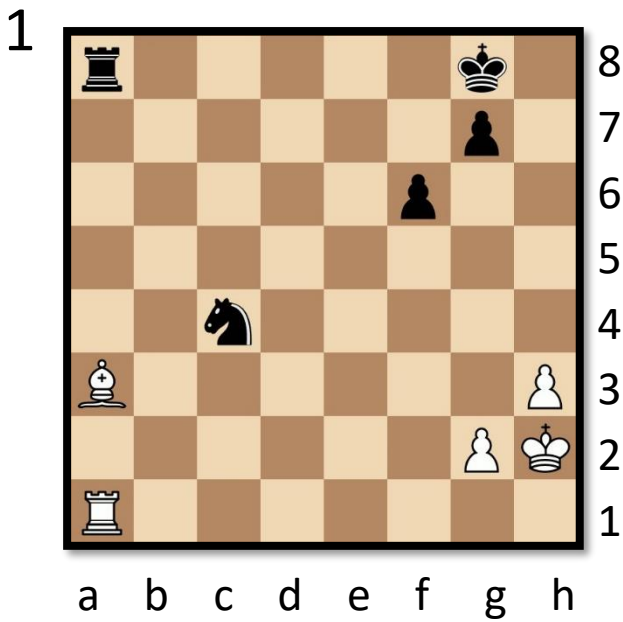
Mega

In each diagram it is white to move. White has a far advanced pawn – how can we take advantage of that?




Mega

In each diagram white is either in a pin. Find the defensive move to avoid loss of material. Sometimes the best form of defence is to counter-attack...




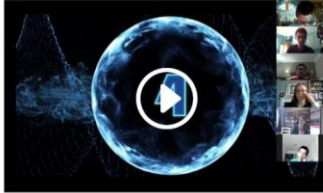
Take a look at...



Online Spring Chess Clubs

From January 2021 the UK Chess Challenge are continuing CLUB – a termly membership where players get access to weekly online competitions and lessons which are banded into five ability levels. There are three membership types so you can choose the features and budget that is right for you. The start date is the 11th January.

We are passionate about giving children the opportunity to “Learn, Practise and Play” and our clubs have all three of these elements in abundance mixed in of course with that vital ingredient – fun!



Check out our weekly Zoom lessons with WFM Sarah Longson on our website using the link below! We run classes every weekday for each ability level as well as tournaments weekdays and weekends!

<https://www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com>

If you enjoyed solving the tactics puzzles today you might enjoy WFM Sarah Longson and GM Danny King’s Chessable course on **Endgames!**

You can find out more online or using the link below.

<https://www.chessable.com/tournament-ready-the-endgame/course/33413/>


Contact Us

Any questions, comments or ideas about anything chess related we’d love to hear from you!

Email: admin@ukchess.co.uk

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