Grown-up vs Child

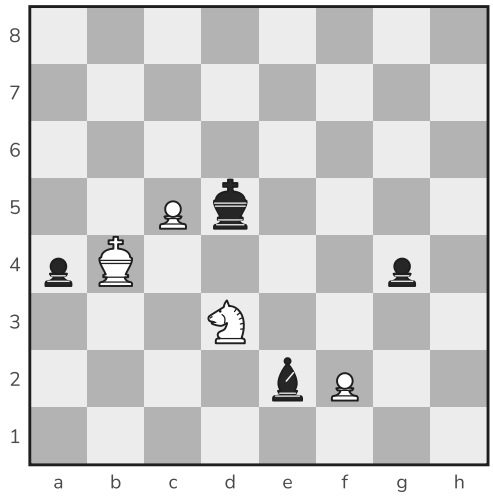
Forks and pins: five puzzles from RankUp Chess, from level 1 up to level 3. Race to find each one, then tick who found it first.

Grown-up _____

Child _____

1 White to play — Find the fork

Fork Forest · Level 1



Who found it first?

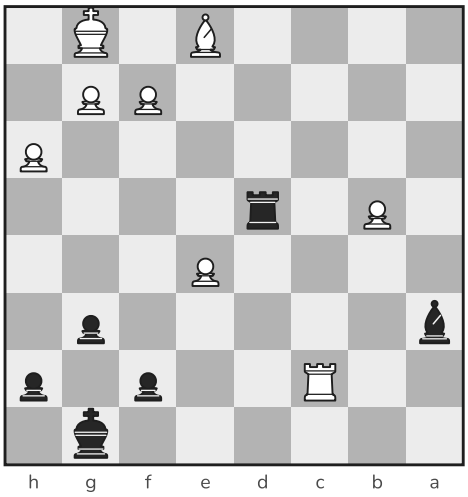
☐ Grown-up

☐ Child

First move: _____

2 Black to play — Find the pin

Pin Peaks · Level 1



Who found it first?

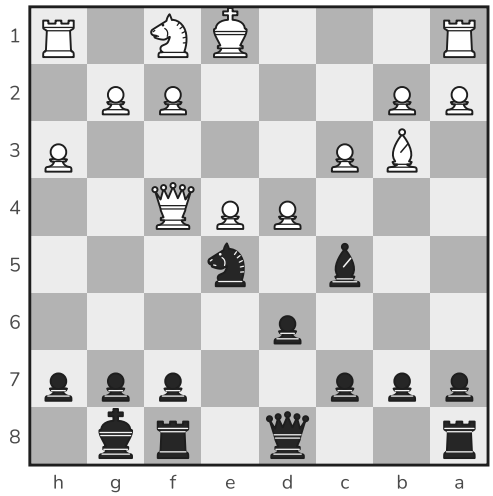
☐ Grown-up

☐ Child

First move: _____

3 Black to play — Find the fork

Fork Forest · Level 2



Who found it first?

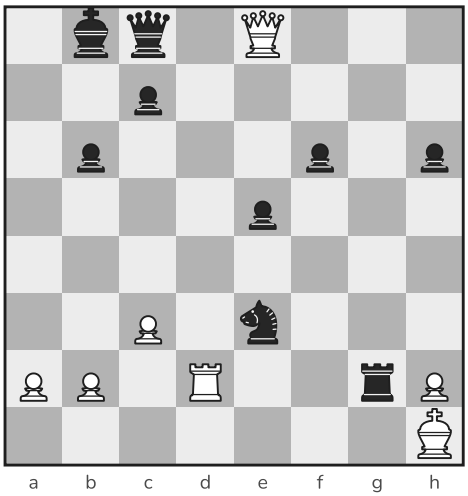
☐ Grown-up

☐ Child

First move: _____

4 White to play — Find the pin

Pin Peaks · Level 2



Who found it first?

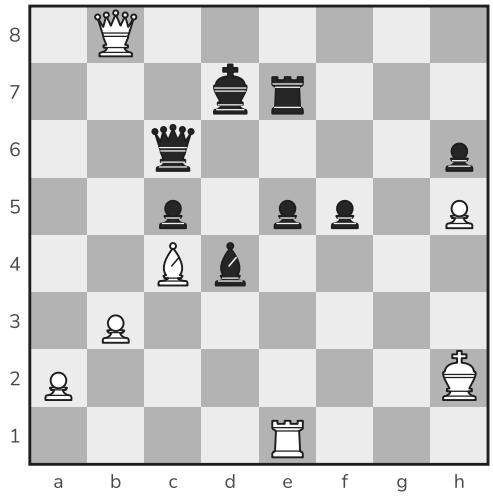
☐ Grown-up

☐ Child

First move: _____

5 White to play — Find the pin

Pin Peaks · Level 3



Who found it first?

☐ Grown-up

☐ Child

First move: _____

Final score

Grown-up _____ / 5

Child _____ / 5

One move, two targets. A fork hits two pieces at once. A pin hits two pieces on one line.

Stuck? Ask together: which move hits two things at once?

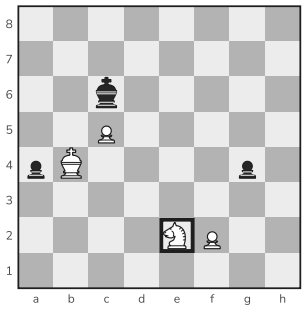
The answers, and why each one works, are on page 2.

From the puzzle packs in RankUp Chess, an offline chess app for children. The app is free to play; the packs are part of its one-time upgrade.
stillwareltd.com/rankupchess

Puzzles from the Lichess open puzzle database (CC0).

Answers

Read these once you've both had a go. Each answer starts with the tempting move that fails, and ends with a one-line lesson. The moves in chess notation are under each board.

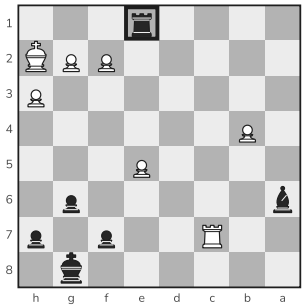


After Nf4+ Kc6 Nxe2

1 Knight to f4, check. It attacks the king and the bishop at once; the king moves and the knight takes the bishop.

The tempting move that fails. Knight to e5 lands next to the king, which takes it.

> **Every knight move changes colour, so a knight forks two pieces on the same colour.**

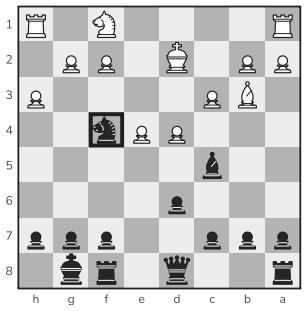


After Rd1 Kh2 Rxe1

2 Rook to d1. The bishop on e1 can't move: its own king is behind it on g1. White's king can't come to f1 (your bishop on a6 covers it), so the rook takes the bishop.

The tempting move that fails. Rook takes b4 wins a pawn, but the bishop takes the rook.

> **A piece in front of its own king can't move away.**

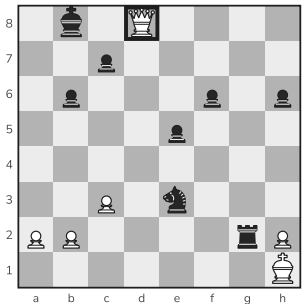


After Nd3+ Kd2 Nxf4

3 Knight to d3, check. It attacks the king and the queen at once: a royal fork. The king moves, and the knight takes the queen.

The tempting moves that fail. Saving the bishop loses the knight, and saving the knight loses the bishop.

> **Answer a fork with a bigger fork.**

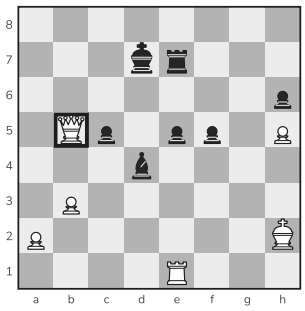


After Rd8 Qxd8 Qxd8+

4 Rook to d8. It steps between the queens, saves your rook and pins Black's queen to her king. She takes the rook, and your queen takes her, with check.

The tempting moves that fail. Queen takes queen is only a trade; rook takes rook on g2 loses your queen.

> **One move can block, escape and attack at the same time.**



After Bb5 Qxb5 Qxb5+

5 Bishop to b5. It pins Black's queen to her king on d7. She takes the bishop, and your queen on b8 takes her, with check.

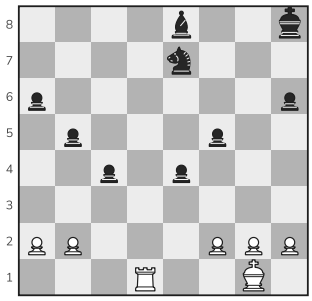
The tempting moves that fail. All seven queen checks fail: six lose the queen, and queen to a7 wins nothing.

> **When every check fails, look for the piece that can't move.**

Puzzles from the Lichess open puzzle database (CC0).

Ten more

From levels 1 and 2 of the same packs, easiest first. Answers upside down at the bottom.



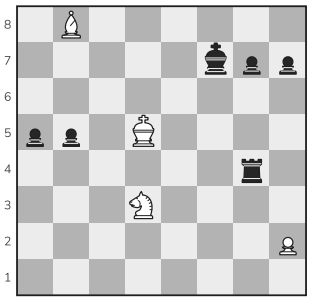
6

White to play

Find the pin

Pin Peaks
Level 1

First move:



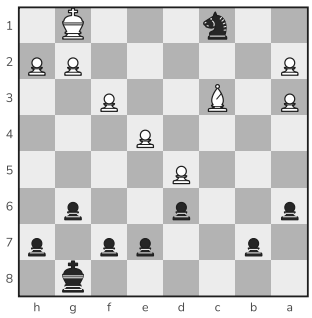
7

White to play

Find the fork

Fork Forest
Level 1

First move:



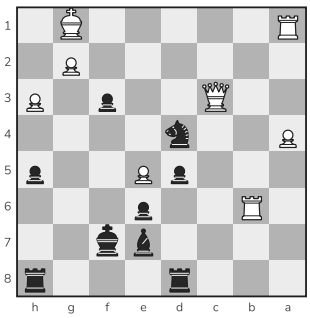
8

Black to play

Find the fork

Fork Forest
Level 1

First move:



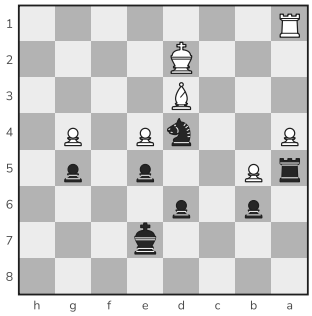
9

Black to play

Find the fork

Fork Forest
Level 1

First move:



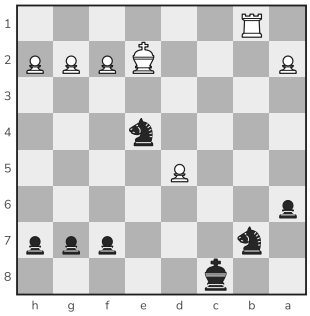
10

Black to play

Find the fork

Fork Forest
Level 1

First move:



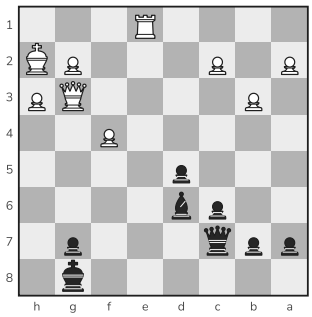
11

Black to play

Find the fork

Fork Forest
Level 1

First move:



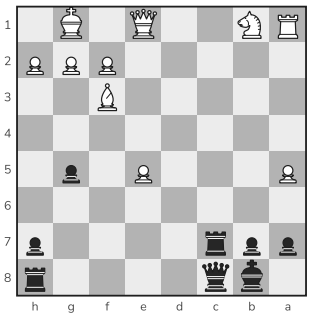
12

Black to play

Find the pin

Pin Peaks
Level 1

First move:



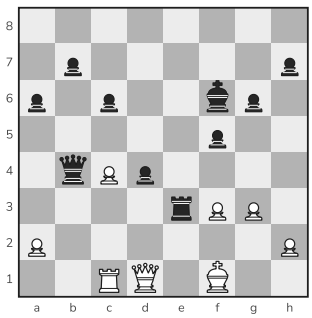
13

Black to play

Find the pin

Pin Peaks
Level 1

First move:



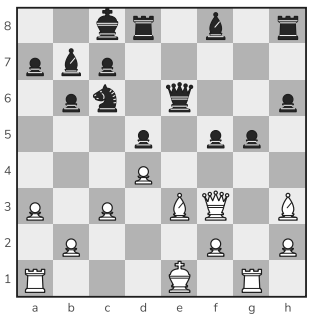
14

White to play

Find the fork

Fork Forest
Level 2

First move:



15

White to play

Find the pin

Pin Peaks
Level 2

First move:

Answers

6 Rook to d8. The king goes to g7. Rook takes e8. Rd8 Kg7 Rxe8

7 Knight to e5, check. The king goes to f6. Knight takes g4, check. Ne5+ Kf6 Nxg4+

8 Knight to e2, check. The king goes to f1. Knight takes c3. Ne2+ Kf1 Nxc3

9 Knight to e2, check. The king goes to h2. Knight takes c3. Ne2+ Kh2 Nxc3

10 Knight to b3, check. The king goes to c3. Knight takes a1. Nb3+ Kc3 Nxa1

11 Knight to c3, check. The king goes to d3. Knight takes b1. Nc3+ Kd3 Nxb1

12 Bishop takes f4. The queen takes f4. Queen takes f4, check. Bxf4 Qxf4 Qxf4+

13 Rook to c1. The knight goes to d2. Rook takes e1, check. Rc1 Nd2 Rxe1+

14 Queen takes d4, check. The king goes to f7. Queen takes e3. Qxd4+ Kf7 Qxe3

15 Bishop takes f5. The queen takes f5. Queen takes f5, check. Bxf5 Qxf5 Qxf5+

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