



Chess Puzzles

Volume 1

Hard



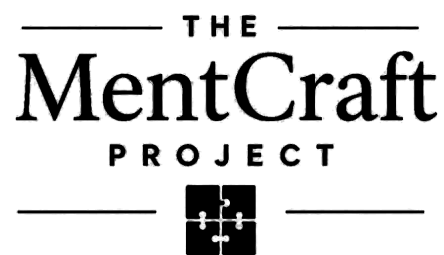
400 Puzzles + 50 Bonus Puzzles

Find the Best Move - Complete Answer Key

Legal Positions - Carefully Graded

GREAT FOR ALL AGES

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Chess Puzzles

Hard - Volume 1

Find the Best Move

450 Puzzles Including 50 Bonus Puzzles

For David

My son, you have a wonderful mind.
Always remain curious and never assume you know everything.

How to Get the Most Out of This Book

Every MentCraft collection starts from a simple idea: different minds grow stronger in different ways. Chess has a special place in that family. A single position can ask you to notice a hidden threat, compare tempting ideas, calculate a few moves ahead, and then trust the line that survives your own questions. It brings together pattern recognition, calculation, imagination, and the quiet satisfaction of seeing a position clearly.

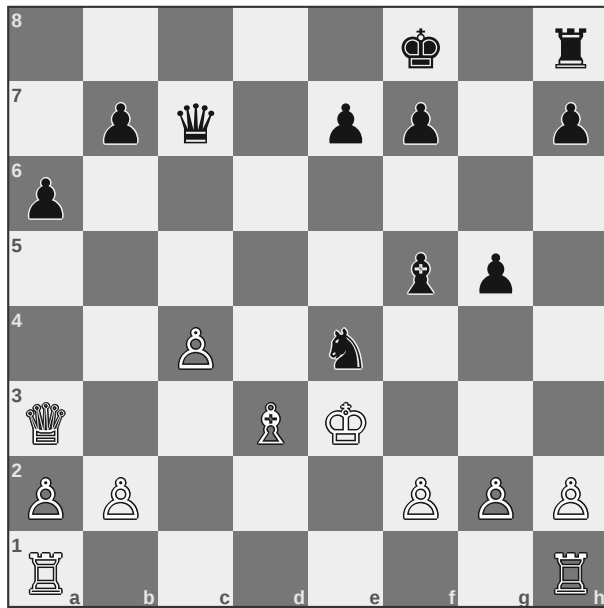
Each puzzle in this book asks one simple question: What is the best move? White is always shown at the bottom of the board, and the label beneath the diagram tells you whose turn it is. Before you turn to the solutions, give the position a little time. Look for checks, captures, threats, loose pieces, vulnerable kings, and tactical patterns - but don't stop at the first move that looks good. Ask what your opponent would play next.

This Hard volume is designed for positions where the best move is less obvious and the consequences reach further. You will often need to compare several plausible candidates, recognize quieter tactical ideas, and calculate accurately beyond the first forcing move. The aim is not speed, but disciplined calculation: identifying what matters, testing your assumptions, and staying with the position until one line proves itself. If a puzzle feels uncomfortable before it becomes clear, that is exactly the kind of work this volume is meant to develop.

You'll find 400 main puzzles and 50 bonus puzzles, followed by complete solutions in standard algebraic notation. In the solutions, x marks a capture, + a check, # checkmate, and O-O / O-O-O castling. Every published position is carefully checked for legality and a clear best move. Use the My Notes line whenever it helps you compare ideas, remember a pattern, or capture the reason a move works. Take your time, enjoy the process, and let every position make the next one a little easier to see.

Puzzle 001

EASY

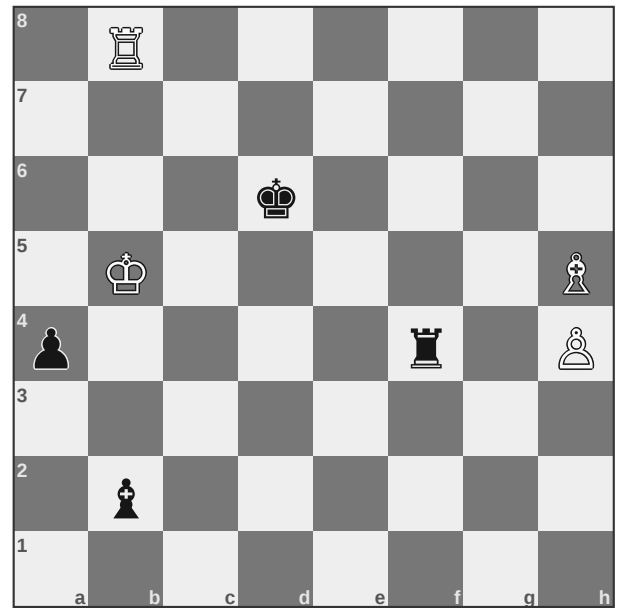
**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 002

EASY

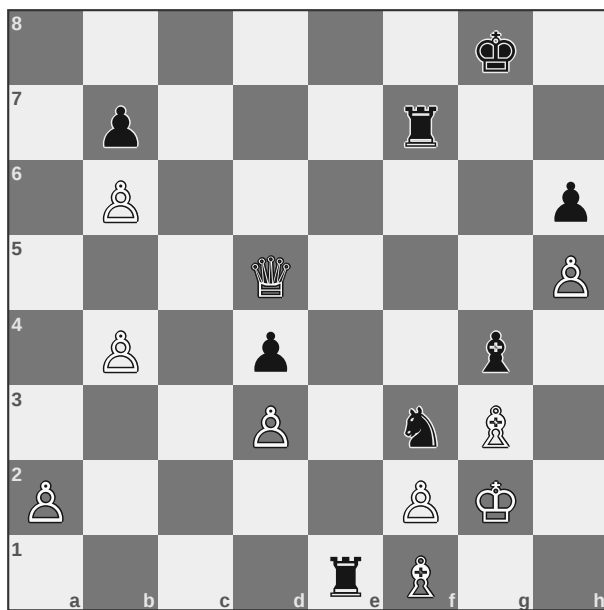
**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 003

EASY

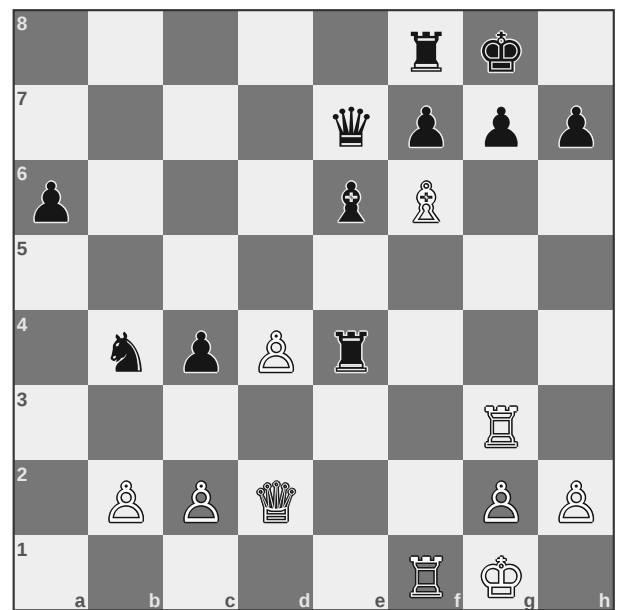
**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 004

EASY

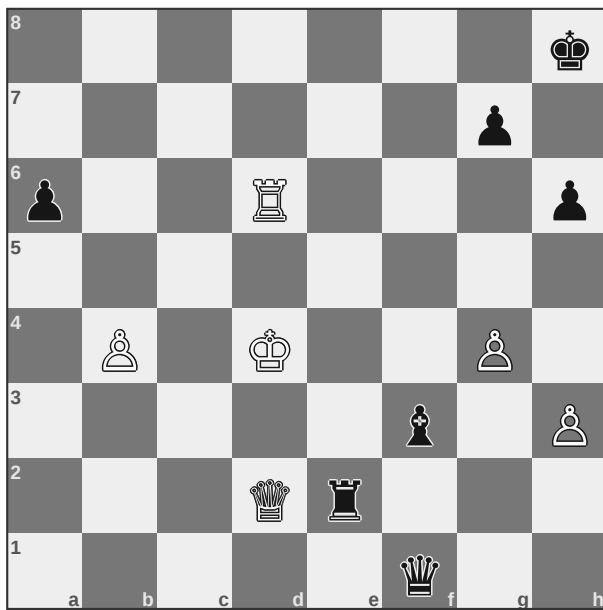
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 005

EASY

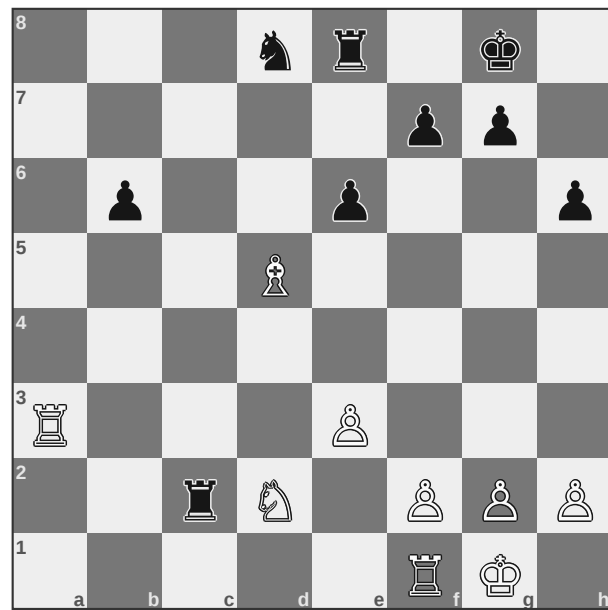
**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 006

EASY

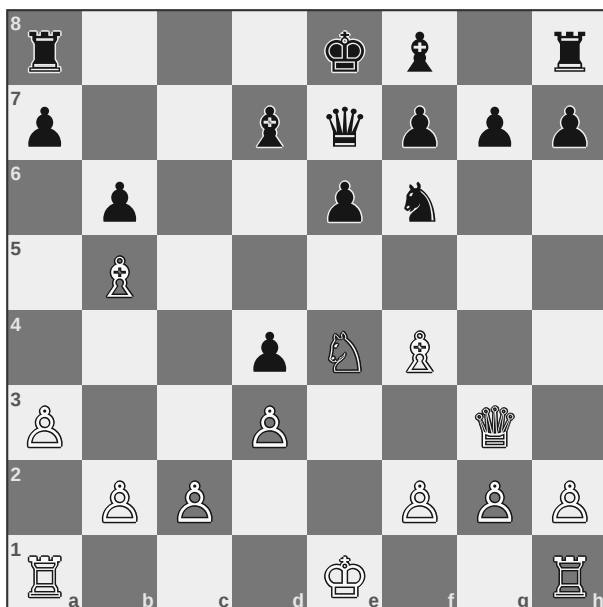
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 007

EASY

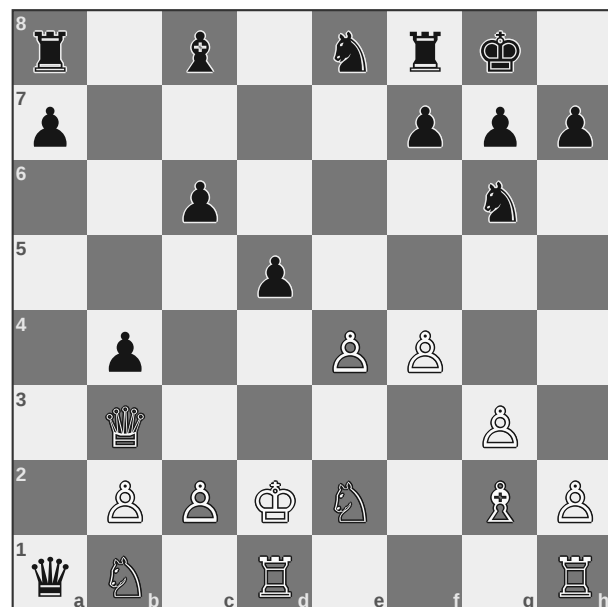
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 008

EASY

**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

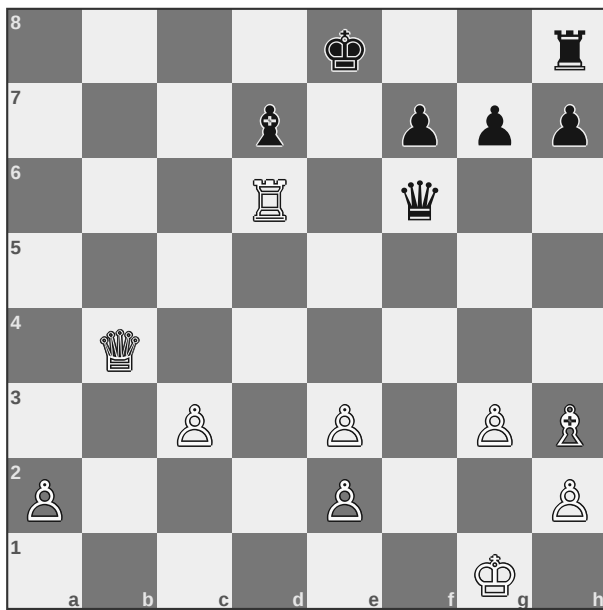
My Notes: _____

BONUS PUZZLES

Our gift to you for choosing this book.
50 extra Hard positions to keep your momentum going.

Puzzle 401

EASY

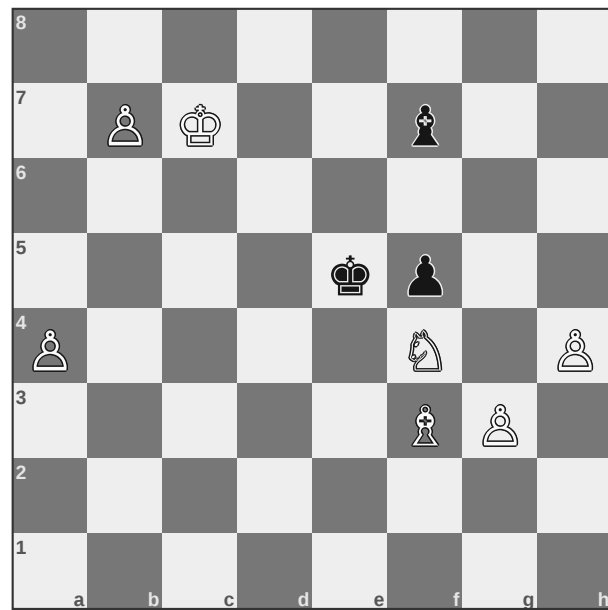
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 402

EASY

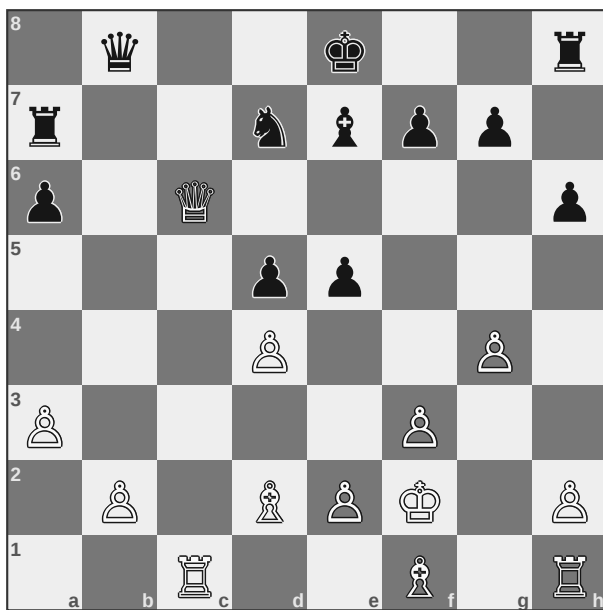
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 403

EASY

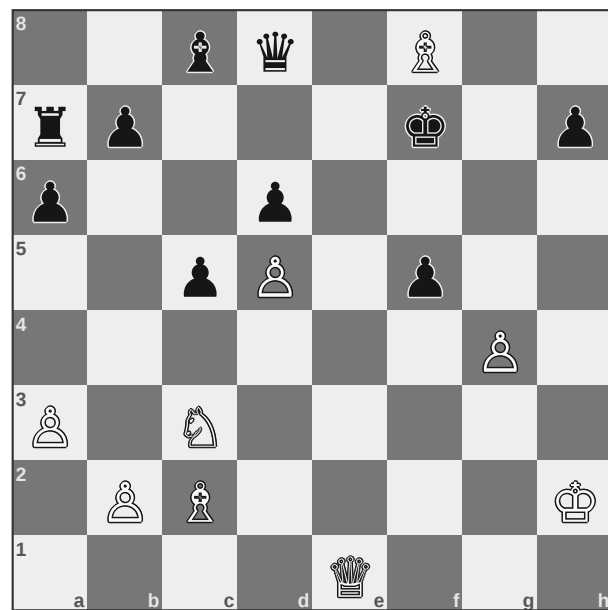
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 404

EASY

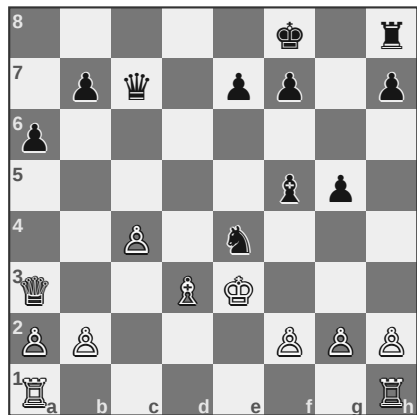
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 001

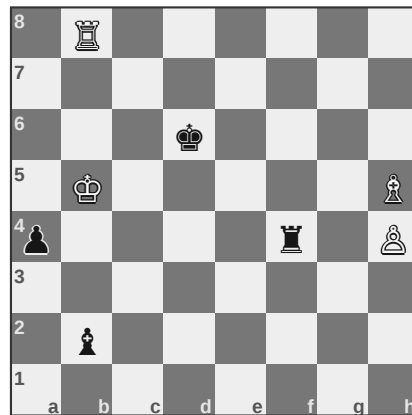
E



18... Qf4+ 19. Kd4 Qxf2+ 20. Ke5

Puzzle 002

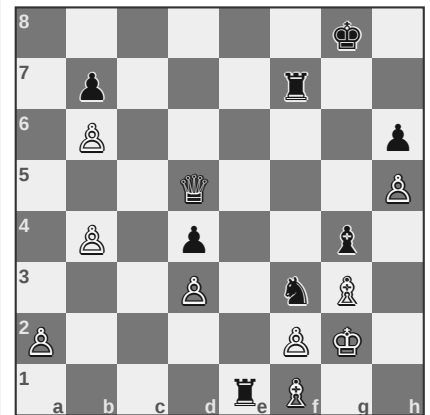
E



55... a3 56. Ra8 Rf5+ 57. Kc4

Puzzle 003

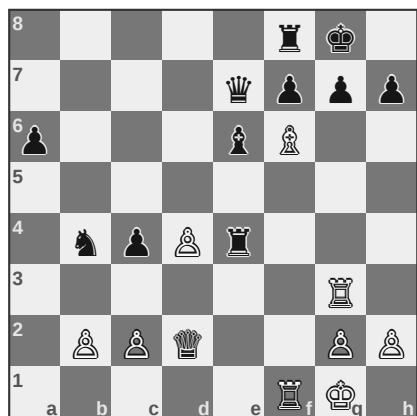
E



37... Nd2 38. Qd6 Bxh5 39. Be5

Puzzle 004

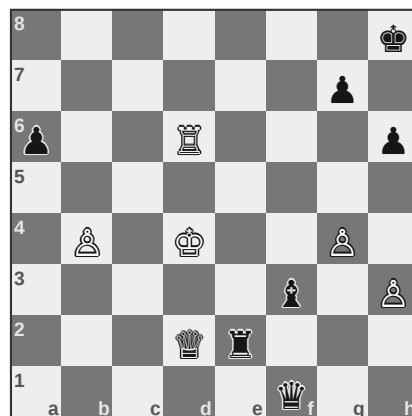
E



24. Rxg7+ Kh8 25. Rg8+ Kxg8

Puzzle 005

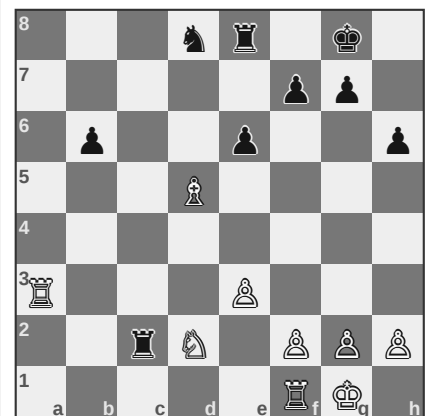
E



51... Rxd2+ 52. Ke5 Qe2+ 53. Kf4

Puzzle 006

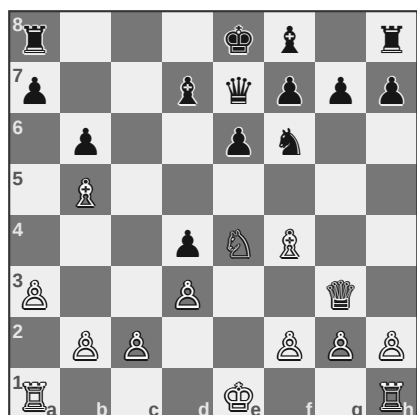
E



23. Ra2 Rxd2 24. Rxd2 exd5

Puzzle 007

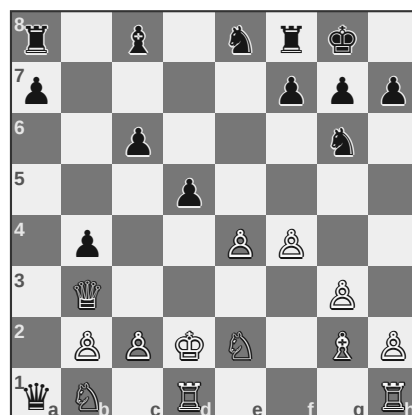
E



14. Nd6+ Kd8 15. Nb7+ Kc8

Puzzle 008

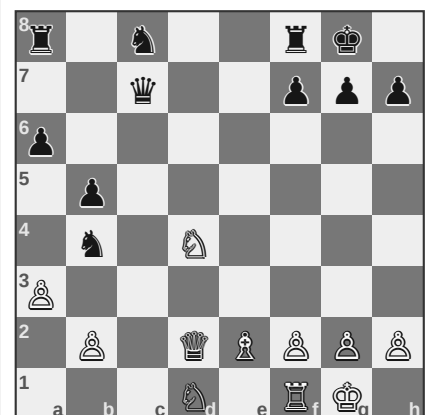
E



18. Na3 Qxd1+ 19. Rxd1 bxa3

Puzzle 009

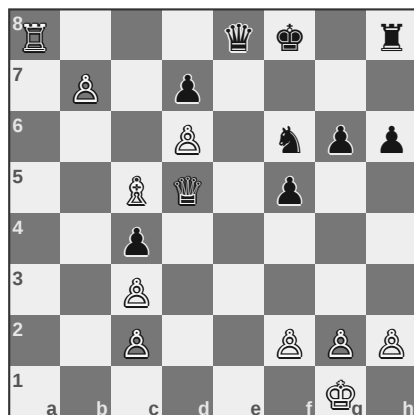
E



22... Nd5 23. Nxb5 Qe5 24. Nd4

Puzzle 442

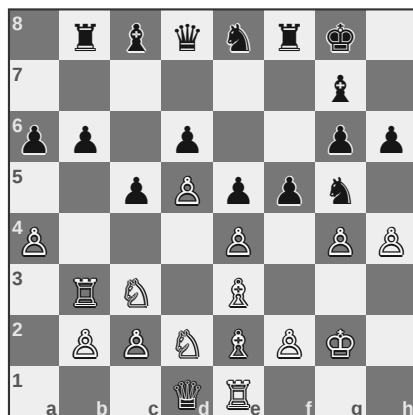
E



28. Rxe8+ Nxe8 29. Qe5 f4

Puzzle 443

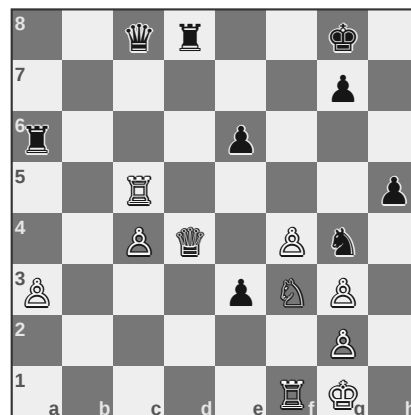
E



26... f4

Puzzle 444

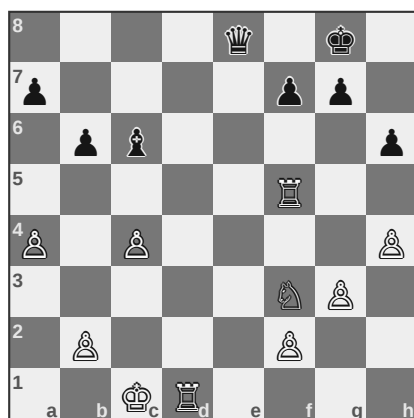
E



34... Qa8 35. Qc3 Qa7 36. Rc7

Puzzle 445

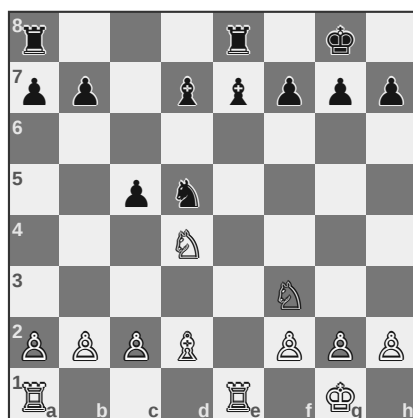
E



39... Qe2 40. Nd2 Qd3 41. Rf4

Puzzle 446

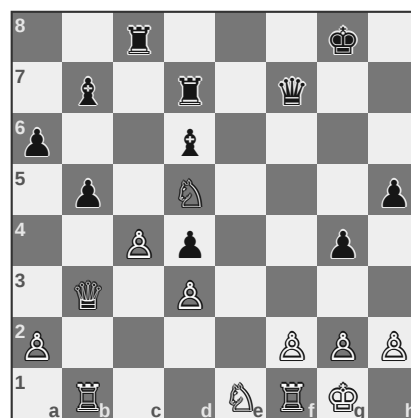
E



17... cxd4 18. Nxd4 Bf6 19. Rxe8+

Puzzle 447

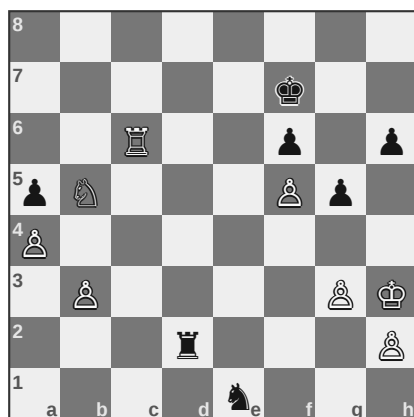
E



35. Nb6 Rc5 36. Nxd7 Qxd7

Puzzle 448

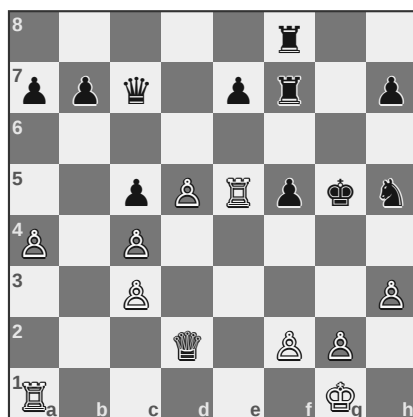
E



48... h5 49. Rc4 Kf8 50. b4

Puzzle 449

E



23... Kg6 24. Rae1 Nf6 25. Qf4

Puzzle 450

E



15. Bxe3 Qe7 16. Qe2 O-O

The MentCraft Project starts from a simple idea: a mind that's exercised regularly stays sharper, more curious, and more capable — but not every mind sharpens the same way. Some people think best in words, others in numbers, others in shapes and spatial patterns, others in sequences of logical steps. That's why MentCraft builds puzzle collections across many different formats, each one training a different kind of mental muscle.

Chess rewards the player who can pause, notice what matters, and calculate one move further. This Hard volume is designed to build that habit one position at a time.

Each puzzle asks one simple question: What is the best move? Look for checks, captures, threats, loose pieces, vulnerable kings, and tactical patterns - then test your idea against your opponent's best reply.

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