



Chess Puzzles

Volume 2

Hard



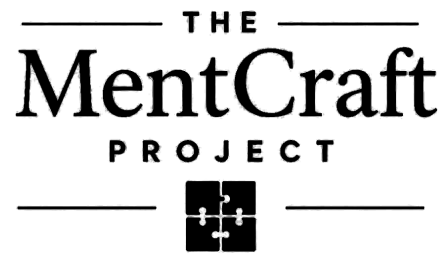
400 Puzzles + 50 Bonus Puzzles

Find the Best Move - Complete Answer Key

Legal Positions - Carefully Graded

GREAT FOR ALL AGES

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Chess Puzzles

Hard - Volume 2

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.

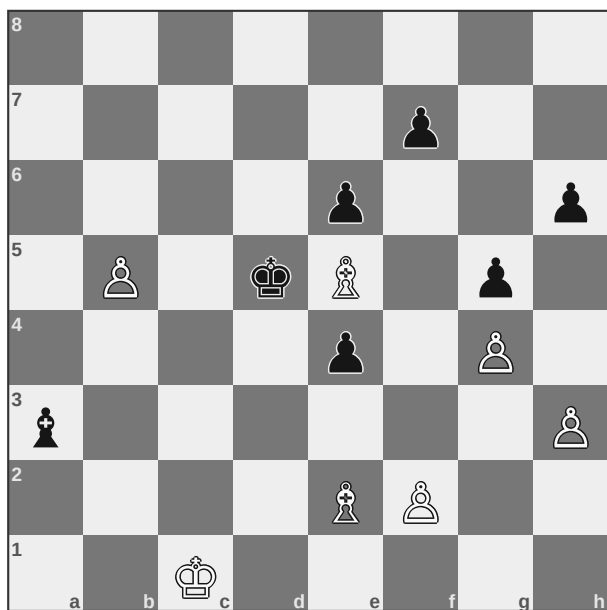
Each puzzle in this book asks one simple question: What is the best move? White is always shown at the bottom of the board, and the label beneath the diagram tells you whose turn it is. Before you turn to the solutions, give the position a little time. Look for checks, captures, threats, loose pieces, 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

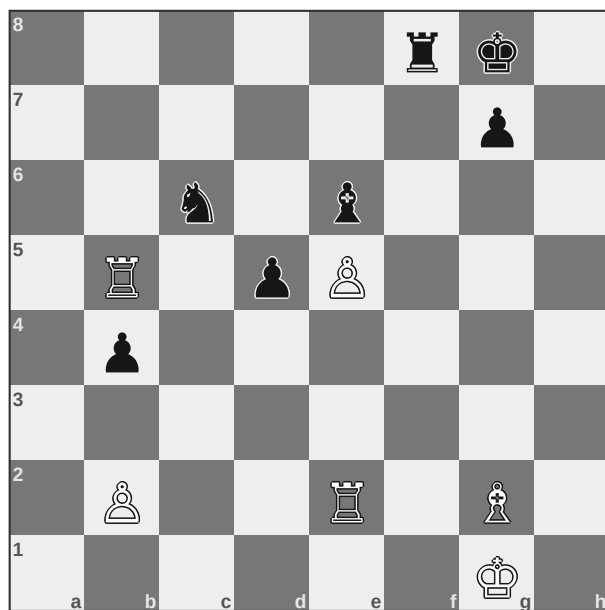
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 002

EASY

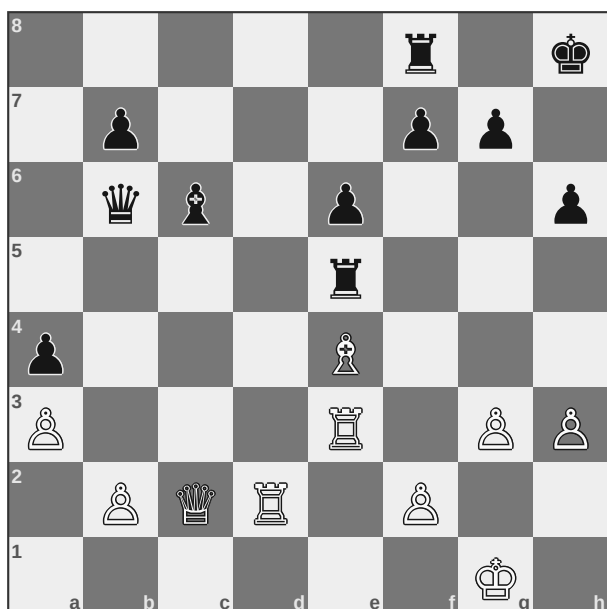
**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 003

EASY

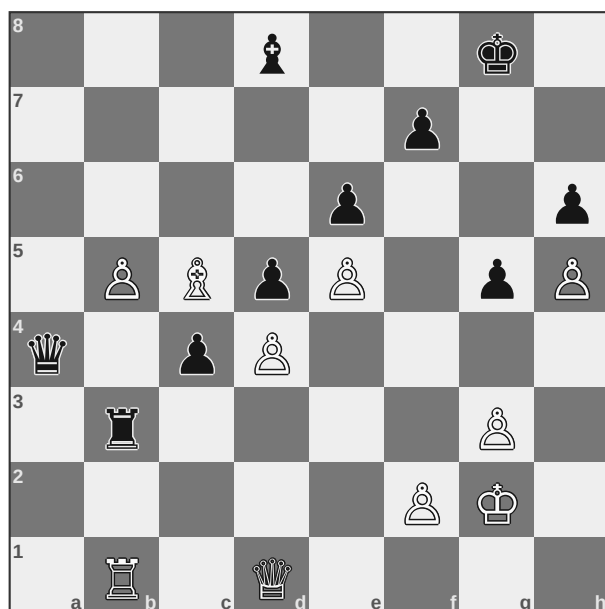
**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 004

EASY

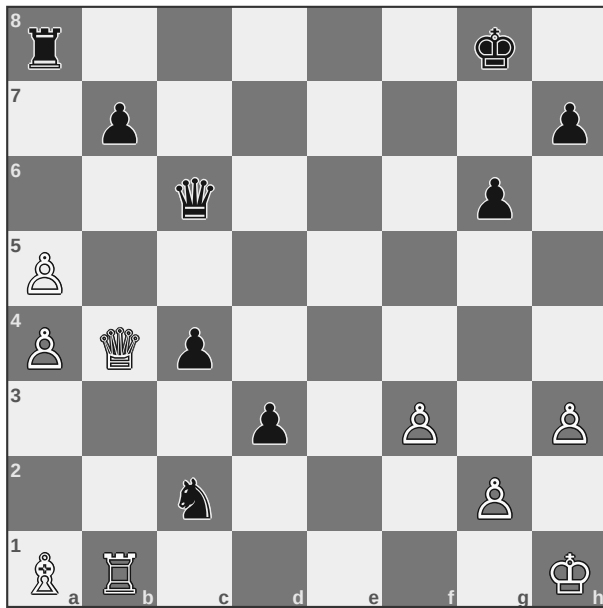
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 005

EASY

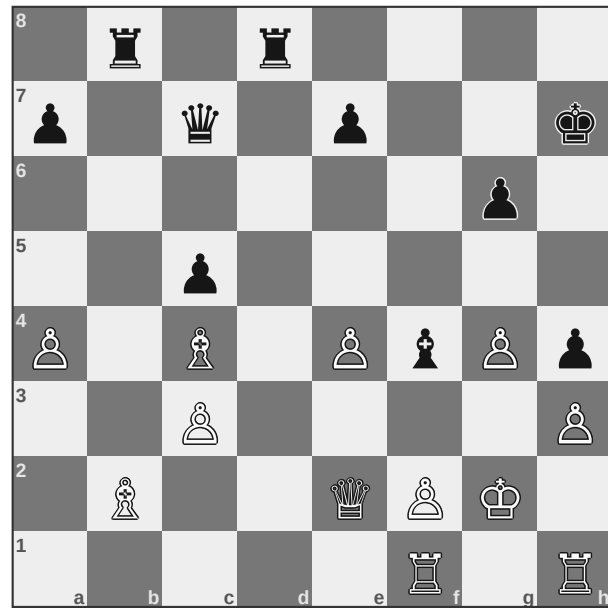
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 006

EASY

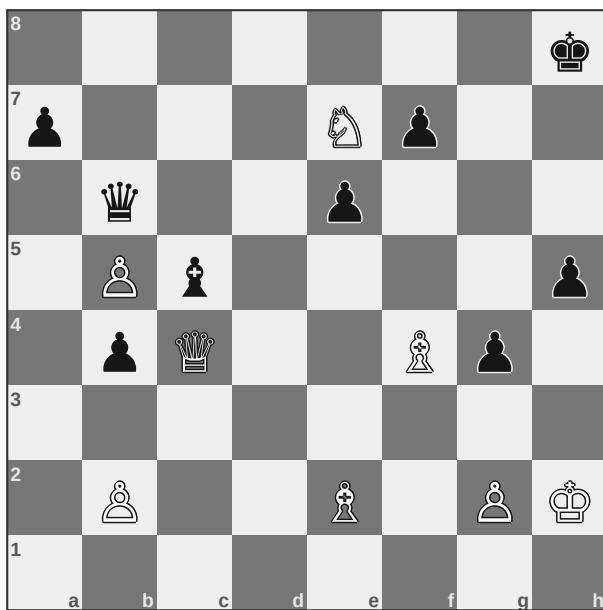
**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 007

EASY

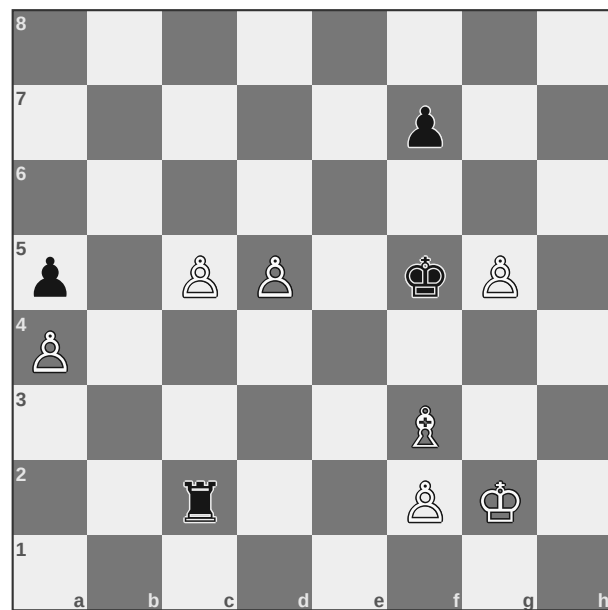
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 008

EASY

**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

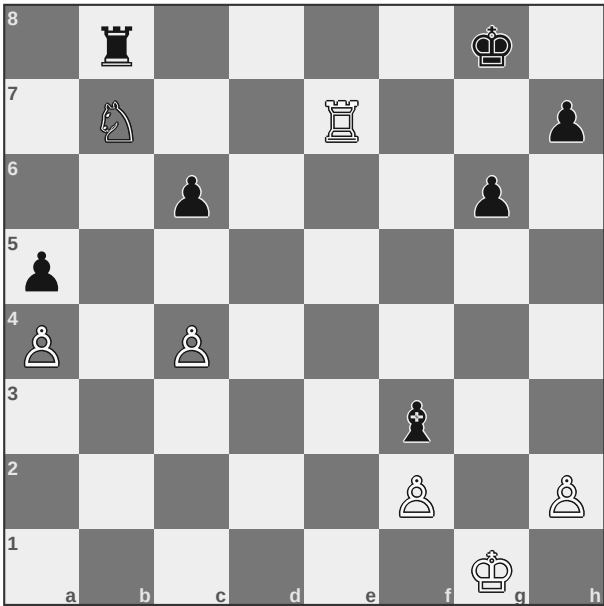
My Notes: _____

BONUS PUZZLES

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

Puzzle 401

EASY

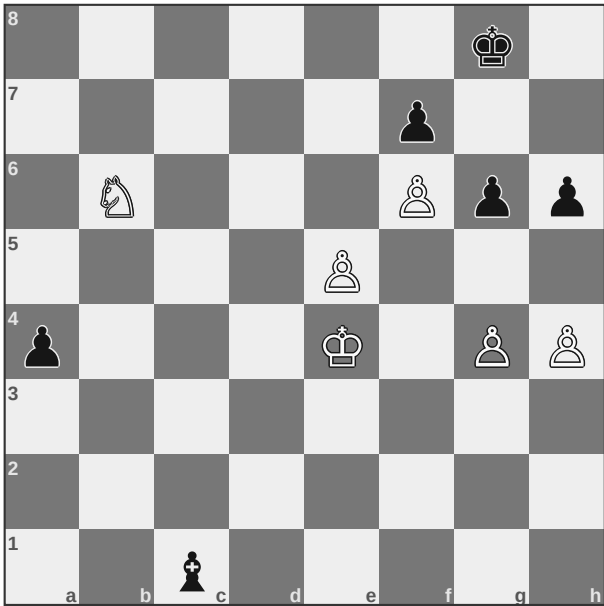


BLACK TO MOVE
Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 402

EASY

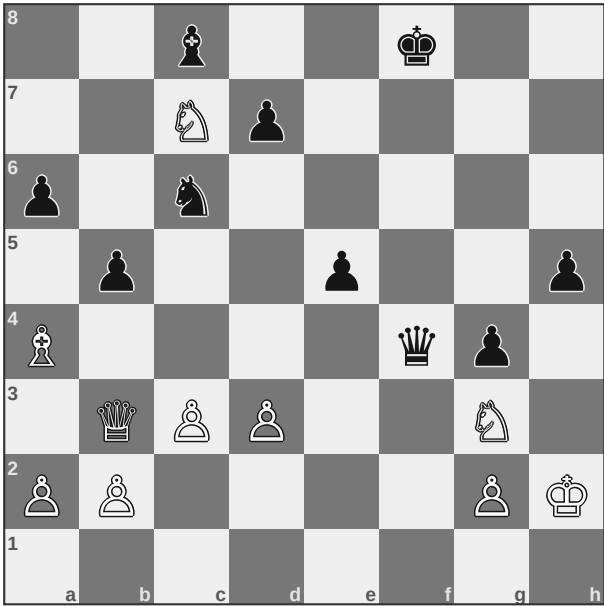


BLACK TO MOVE
Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 403

EASY

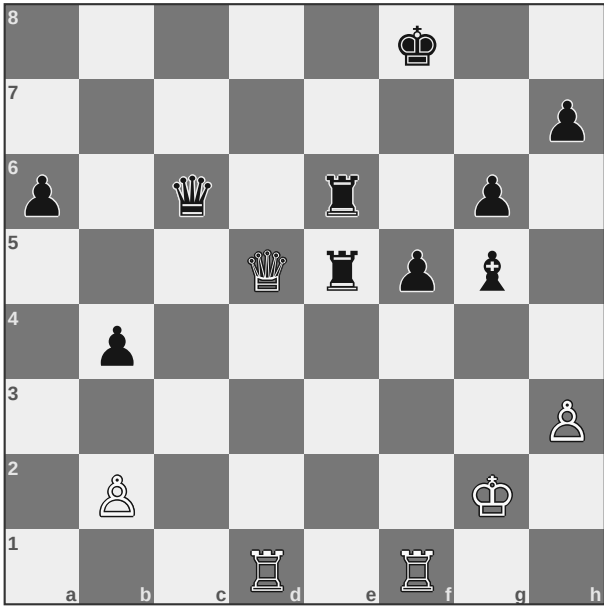


BLACK TO MOVE
Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 404

EASY

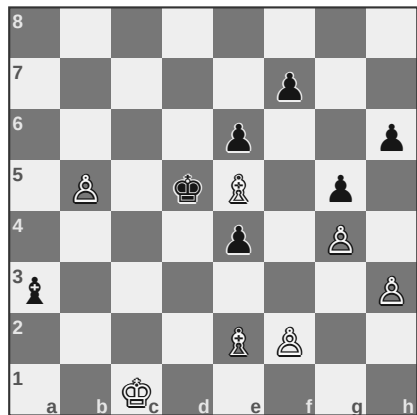


BLACK TO MOVE
Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 001

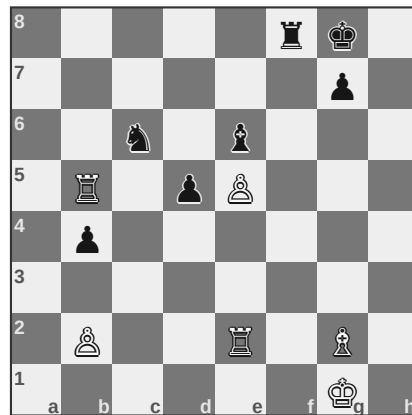
E



42. Bb2 Bc5 43. f3 f5

Puzzle 002

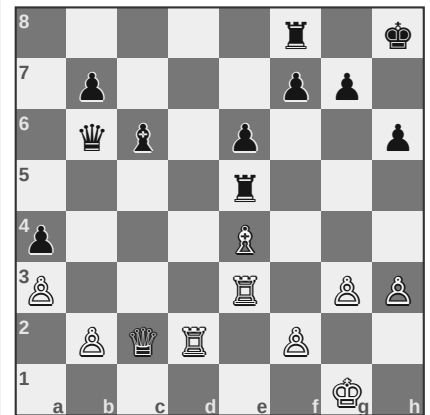
E



38... Nd4 39. Rd2 Nxb5 40. Bxd5

Puzzle 003

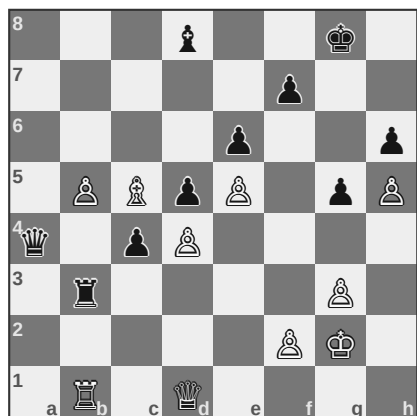
E



27... f5 28. Bxc6 Rxe3 29. fxe3

Puzzle 004

E



42. hxg6 fxg6 43. Qg4 Kh8

Puzzle 005

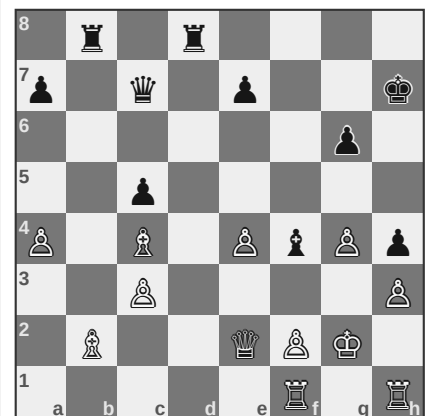
E



36. Qe7 Nxa1 37. Rxb7 Qxb7

Puzzle 006

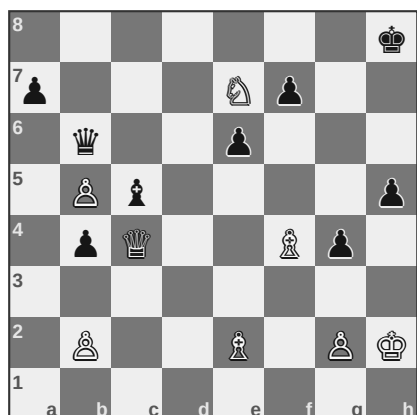
E



30... Rd2 31. Rb1 Rxe2 32. Bxe2

Puzzle 007

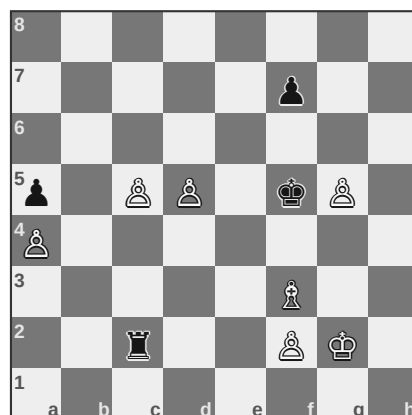
E



35. Be5+ Kh7 36. Bd3+ f5

Puzzle 008

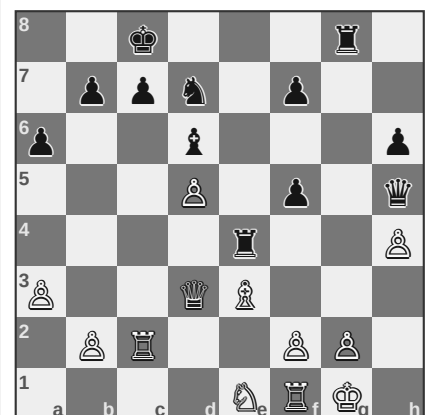
E



44. d6 Ke6 45. Bg4+ f5

Puzzle 009

E



23... Bh2+ 24. Kh1 Rxh4 25. Bg5

Puzzle 442

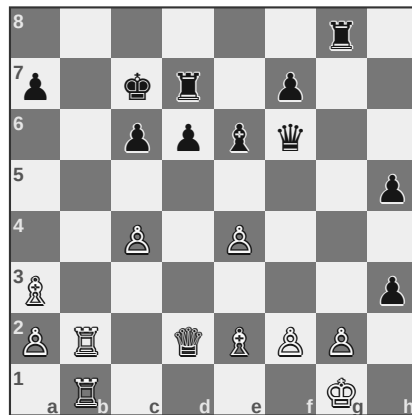
E



17... g5 18. Bxg5 Bxe5 19. Rac1

Puzzle 443

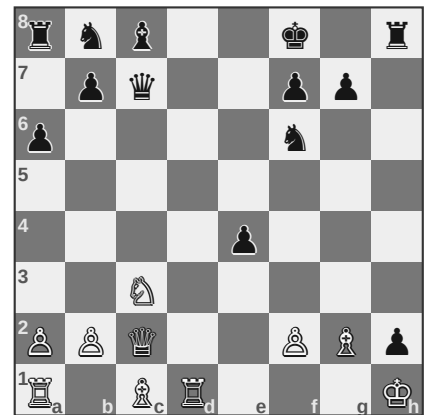
E



26... Rxc2+ 27. Kh1 Rh2+ 28. Kxh2

Puzzle 444

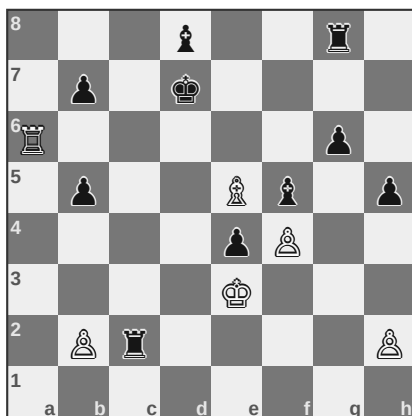
E



17. Bf4 Qxf4 18. Rd8+ Ke7

Puzzle 445

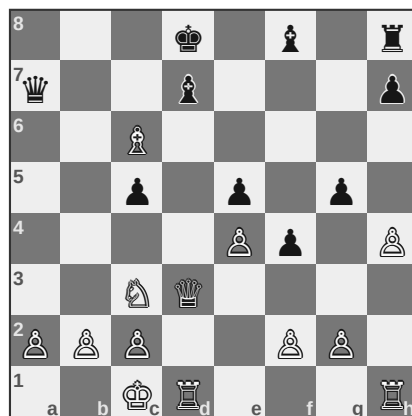
E



31... bxa6 32. Bc3 Bb6+ 33. Bd4

Puzzle 446

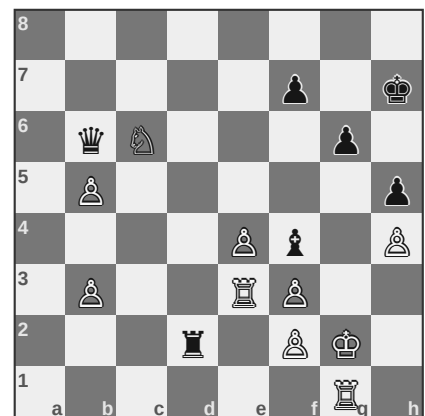
E



22. Qxd7+ Qxd7 23. Rxd7+ Ke8

Puzzle 447

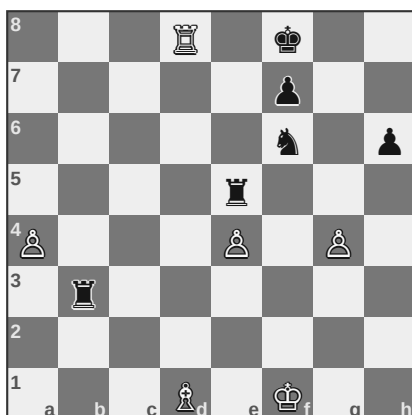
E



41... Rxf2+ 42. Kxf2 Qxe3+ 43. Kf1

Puzzle 448

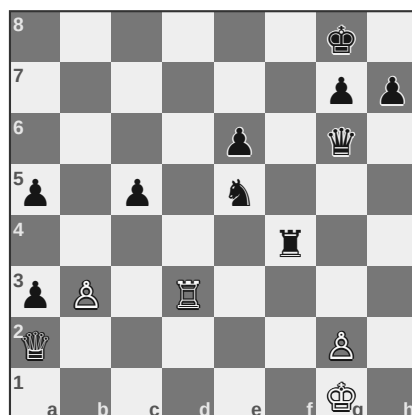
E



44... Ke7 45. Bxb3 Kxd8 46. Bxf7

Puzzle 449

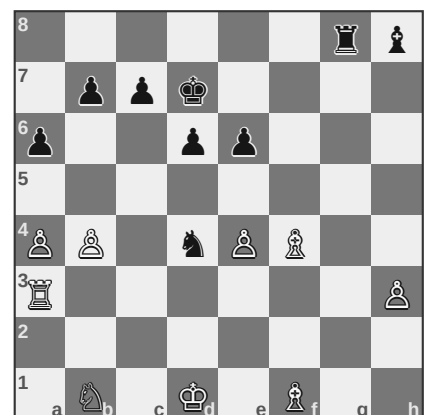
E



42... Qxd3 43. Qf2 Rxf2 44. Kxf2

Puzzle 450

E



28... Rf8 29. Nd2 Rxf4 30. b5

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.

Inside you'll find 400 main puzzles, 50 bonus positions, and complete solutions in standard algebraic notation. Every published position is carefully checked for legality and a clear best move.

