



Chess Puzzles

Volume 3

Hard



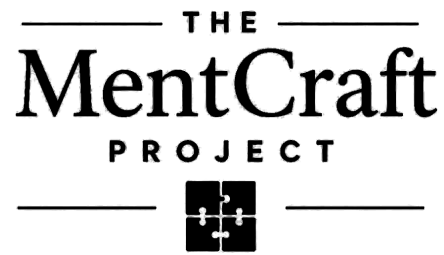
400 Puzzles + 50 Bonus Puzzles

Find the Best Move - Complete Answer Key

Legal Positions - Carefully Graded

GREAT FOR ALL AGES

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Chess Puzzles

Hard - Volume 3

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.

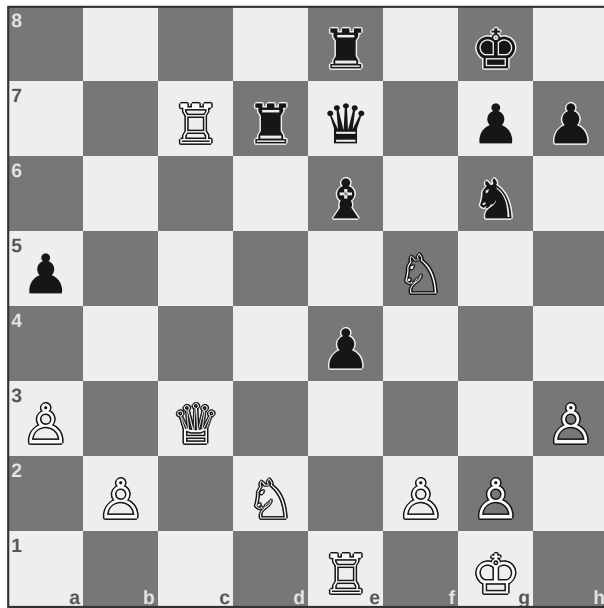
Each puzzle in this book asks one simple question: What is the best move? White is always shown at the bottom of the board, and the label beneath the diagram tells you whose turn it is. Before you turn to the solutions, give the position a little time. Look for checks, captures, threats, loose pieces,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

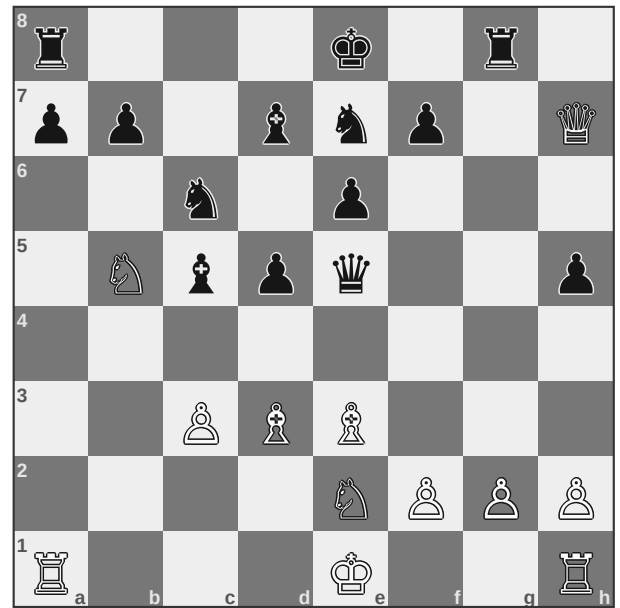
**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 002

EASY

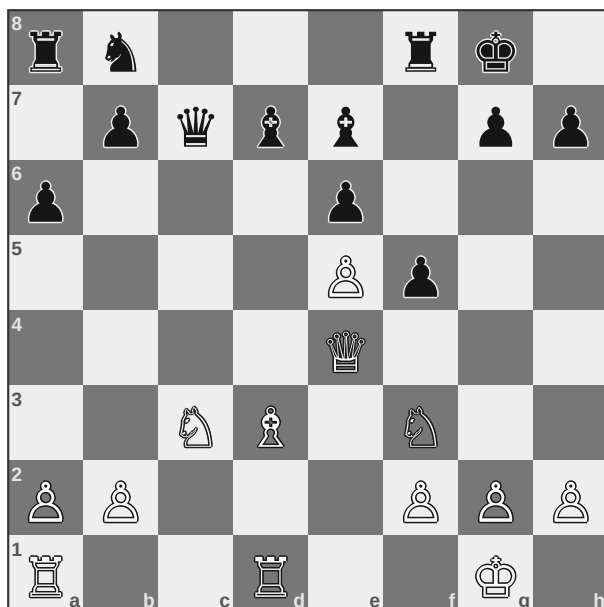
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 003

EASY

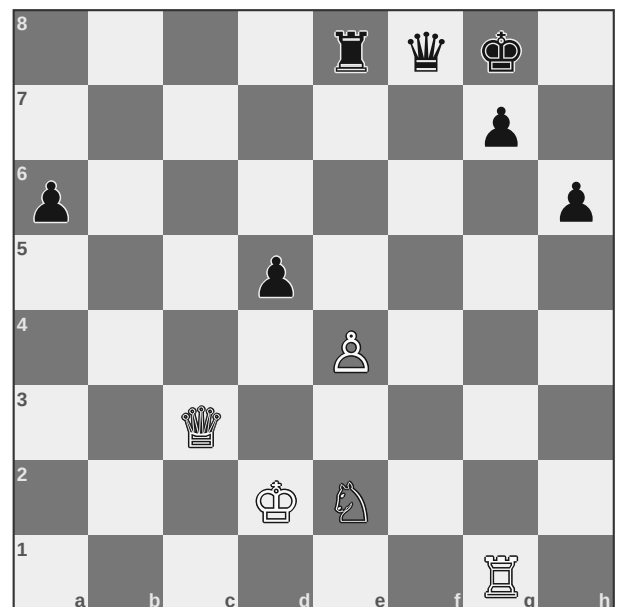
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 004

EASY

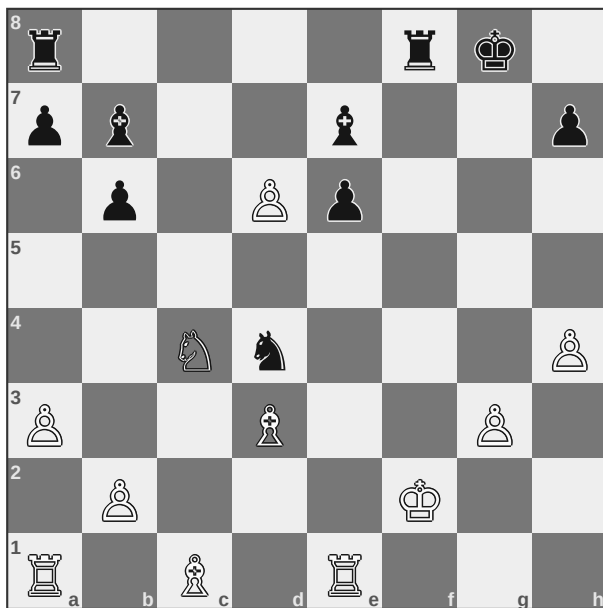
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 005

EASY

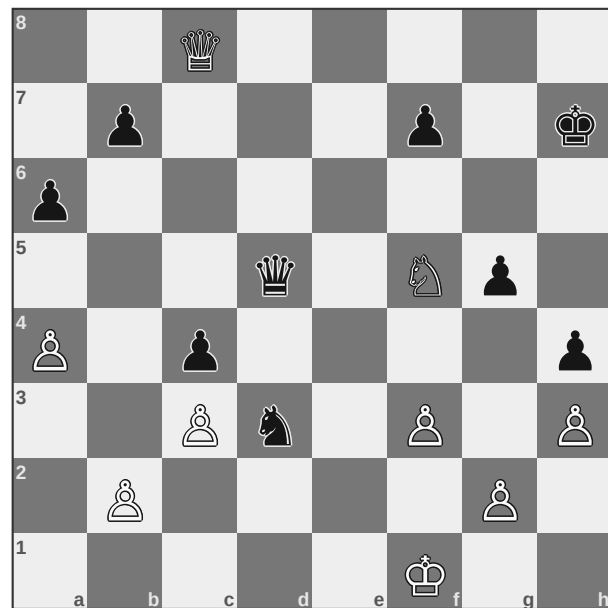
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 006

EASY

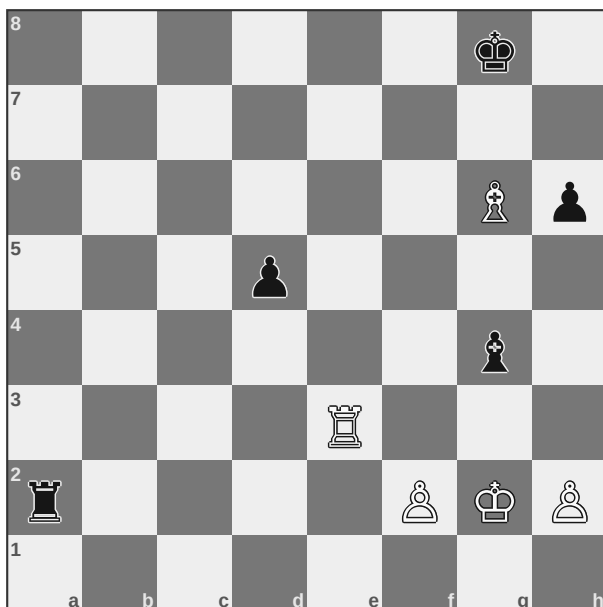
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 007

EASY

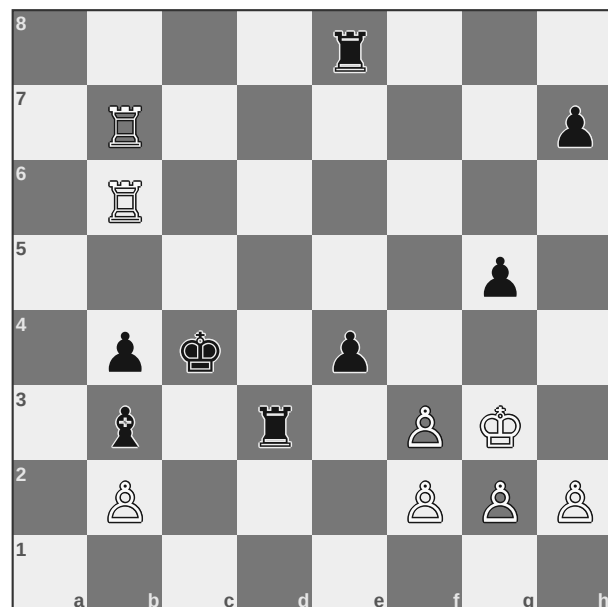
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 008

EASY

**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

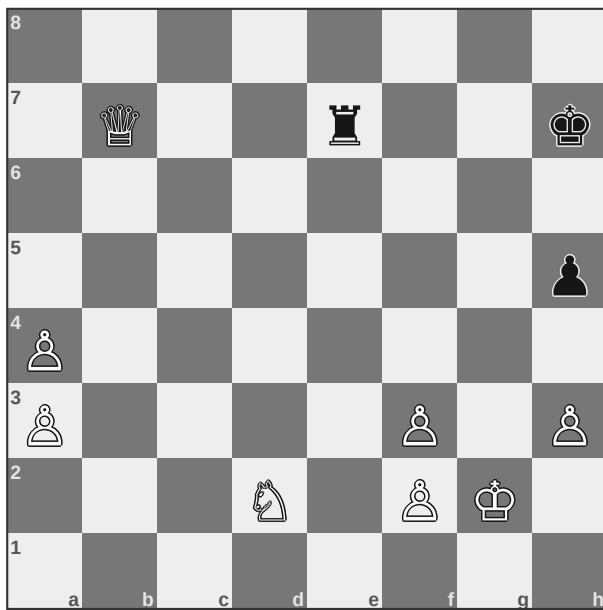
My Notes: _____

BONUS PUZZLES

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

Puzzle 401

EASY

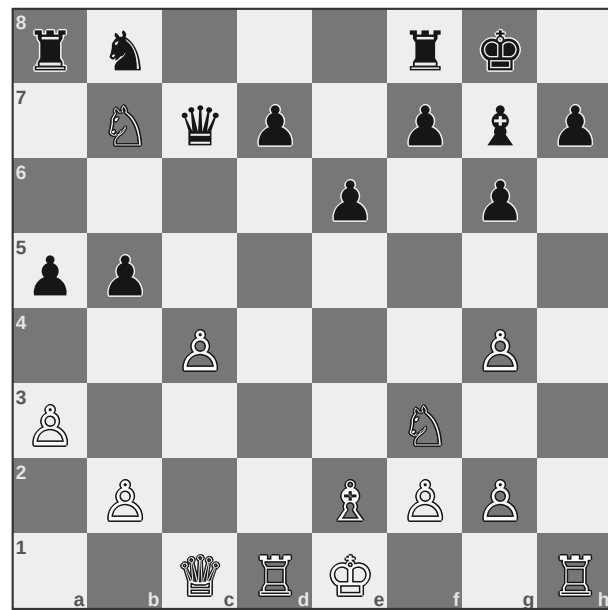
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 402

EASY

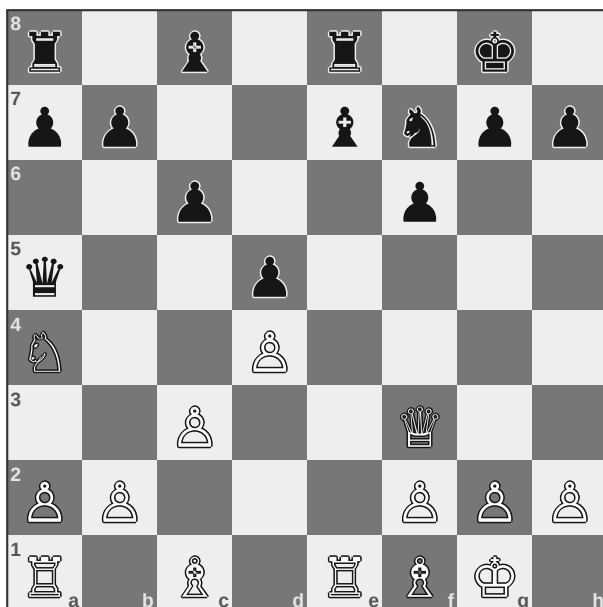
**WHITE TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 403

EASY

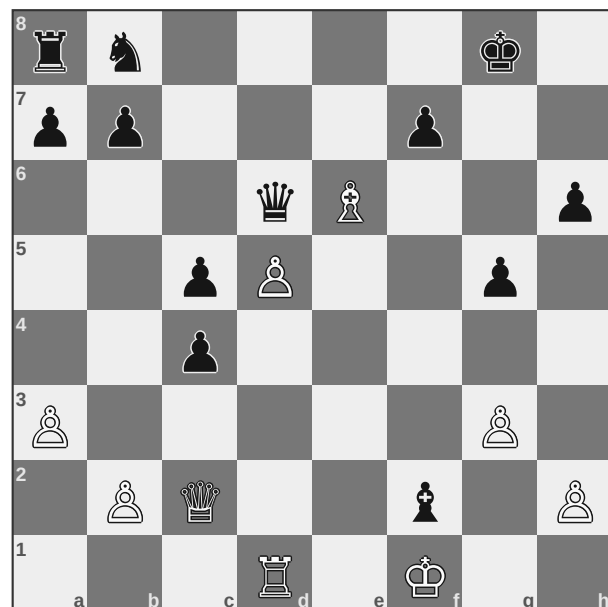
**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 404

EASY

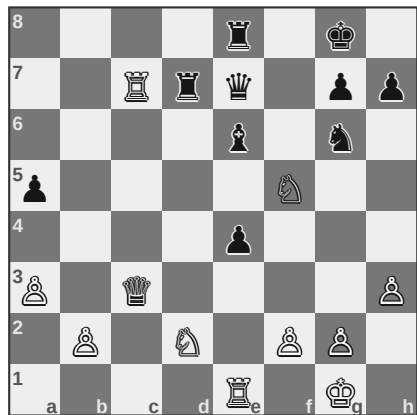
**BLACK TO MOVE**

Find the best move.

My Notes: _____

Puzzle 001

E



26... Bxf5 27. Rxd7 Qxd7 28. Qxa5

Puzzle 002

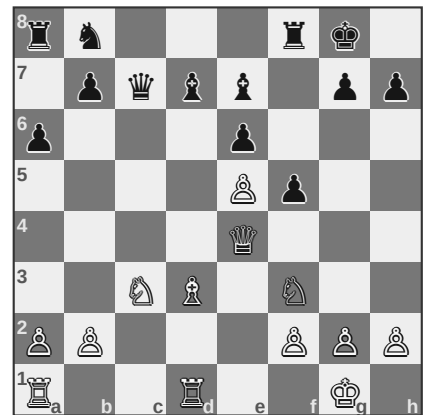
E



18. Bxc5 Qf6 19. Nd6+ Kf8

Puzzle 003

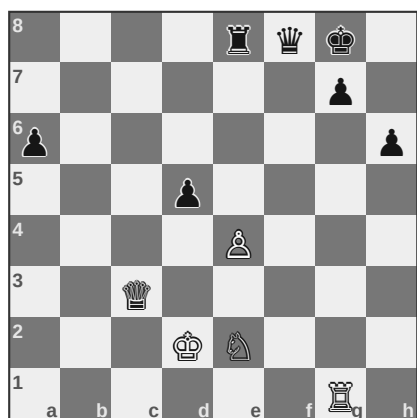
E



17. exf6 Bxf6 18. Qxh7+ Kf7

Puzzle 004

E



33. exd5 Re4 34. Rc1 Kh8

Puzzle 005

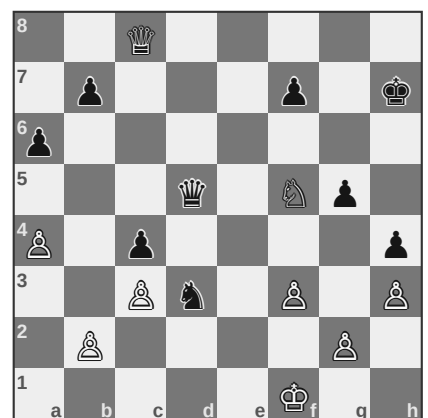
E



24. Bf4 Bxh4 25. gxh4 Rxf4+

Puzzle 006

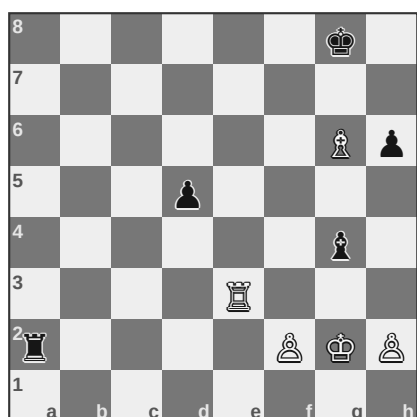
E



39. Ne7 Qe5 40. Qg8+ Kh6

Puzzle 007

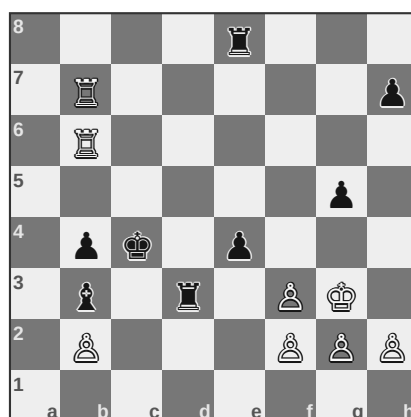
E



46. Rg3 Kg7 47. Rxg4 Kf6

Puzzle 008

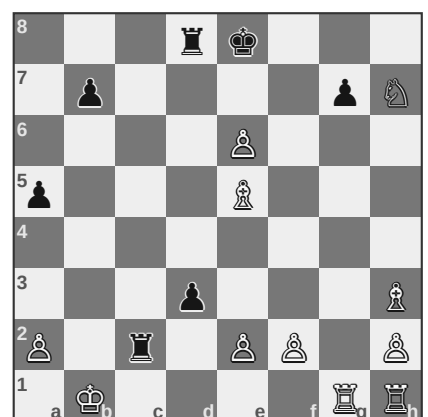
E



27... Kc5 28. Rb5+ Kd6 29. R7b6+

Puzzle 009

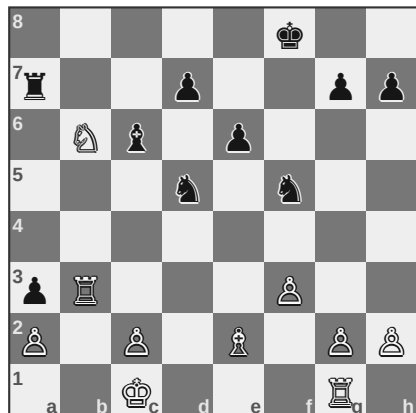
E



33. Rxg7 Rb2+ 34. Kxb2 Rd7

Puzzle 442

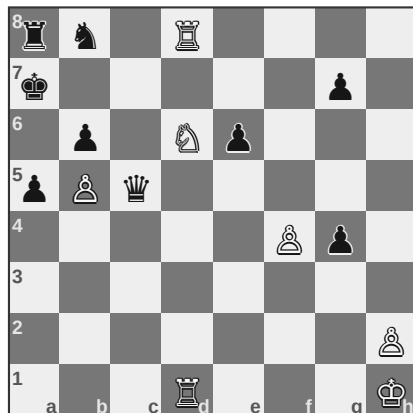
E



28... Nd4 29. Nxd7+ Rxd7 30. Rb8+

Puzzle 443

E



42... Na6 43. Rd7+ Nc7 44. f5

Puzzle 444

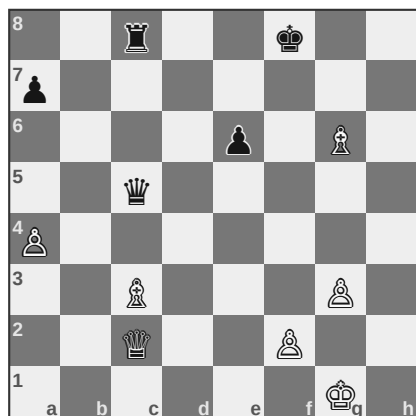
E



19... Nd4 20. Qd1 Qe5 21. g3

Puzzle 445

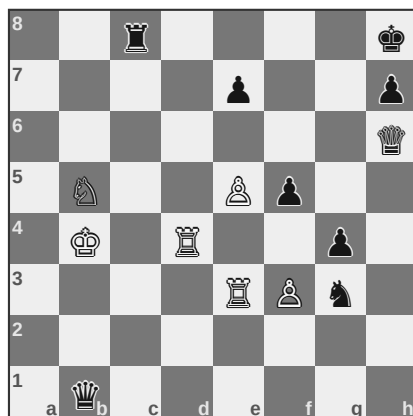
E



35. Bb4 Qxb4 36. Qxc8+ Kg7

Puzzle 446

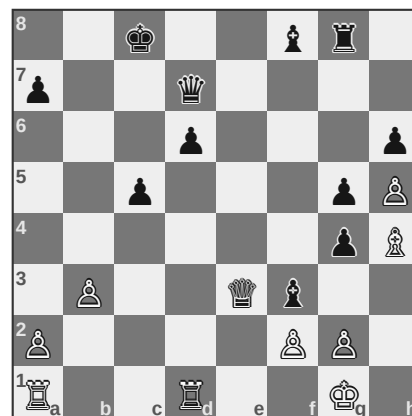
E



44. Rb3 Qc2 45. Qb6 Kg7

Puzzle 447

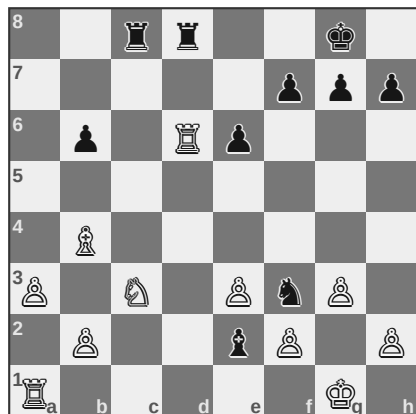
E



30. Bg3 Bxd1 31. Rxd1 Be7

Puzzle 448

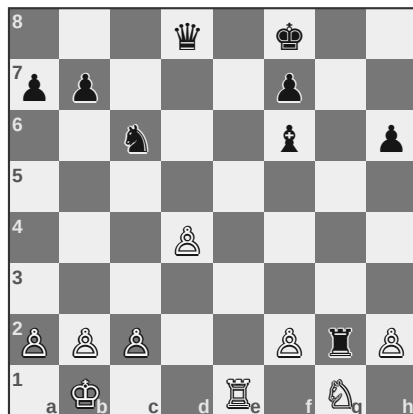
E



27. Kg2 Rxd6 28. Bxd6 Rxc3

Puzzle 449

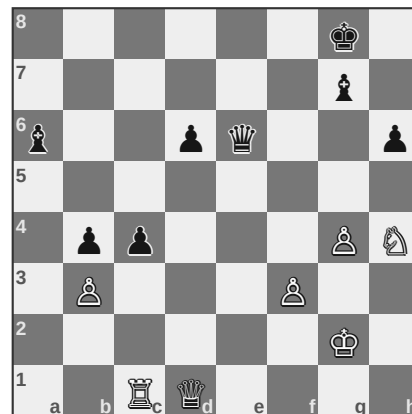
E



23... Qxd4 24. c3 Qxf2 25. Ne2

Puzzle 450

E



43... cxb3

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.

