CHESSPATH ACADEMY · BUILDING STRONG MINDS THROUGH CHESS

Our Work: Sample Student Materials

A look at what every ChessPath student receives: clear lesson recaps, practice worksheets, a structured curriculum and a plan for what to improve next.



Coach Musatwe Simutowe · FIDE Candidate Master & FIDE Instructor · 20+ years coaching
Online worldwide · Private coaching in Dubai · Children and adults

HOW IT WORKS

A ChessPath lesson, from start to progress

Every student follows a path built around their age, experience and goals.

1
First lesson
Meet Coach Musa and find the student's current level.

2
Personal plan
Clear goals and a training plan for the next weeks.

3
Weekly lessons
One-to-one, online or in person in Dubai.

4
Practice
Short homework to build habits between lessons.

5
Reviews
Regular progress reviews and next steps.

What your student receives

Lesson recap
A short written summary after each lesson: what was covered, the key idea and what to practise.

Practice worksheets
Printable homework with diagrams, matched to the student's level and the topic of the lesson.

Tactics and puzzles
Carefully chosen positions to train pattern recognition, calculation and concentration.

Structured curriculum
Six levels, from the first moves to competitive chess, so students always know what comes next.

Progress scorecard
A simple review of strengths and focus areas that parents and students can follow over time.

Game analysis
Students' own games reviewed together, with tournament preparation for those who compete.

What we build besides chess skill

Critical thinking · Concentration · Calculation · Problem solving · Discipline · Confidence · Decision making

> The next pages show examples of the formats we use, including a real ChessPath endgame worksheet. They do not show any student's name, photo or results.

SAMPLE LESSON RECAP

Back-rank checkmate

SAMPLE FORMAT

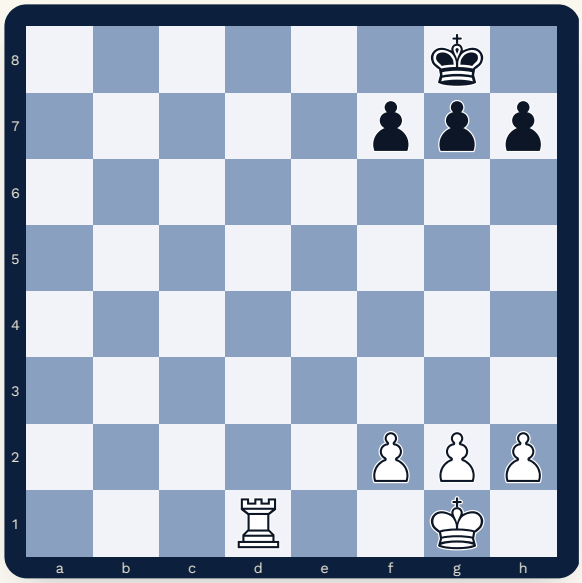
STUDENT	LEVEL	LESSON	TOPIC
Sample Student	2 · Tactical thinking	Online, 1-to-1	Back-rank mate

What we covered

- Why a king trapped behind its own pawns is in danger.
- How a rook or queen delivers mate on the back rank.
- Making "luft" (an escape square) so your own king is safe.

KEY IDEA

Before every move, ask: where can the enemy king escape to?



White to move. Can you find the checkmate?

Answer: Rd8#

Homework

- [ ] Worksheet 1: four checkmates in one.
- [ ] Play one game and check both back ranks before each move.
- [ ] Write down one position where a back-rank mate was possible.

Next lesson

Spotting back-rank weaknesses in real games, and creating an escape square in time.

Practice between lessons

About 15 to 20 minutes of worksheet practice, spread across the week.

Coach's note (example wording): *Today we focused on one idea and practised it from different angles. Next lesson we will look at how to spot the same pattern in a real game.*

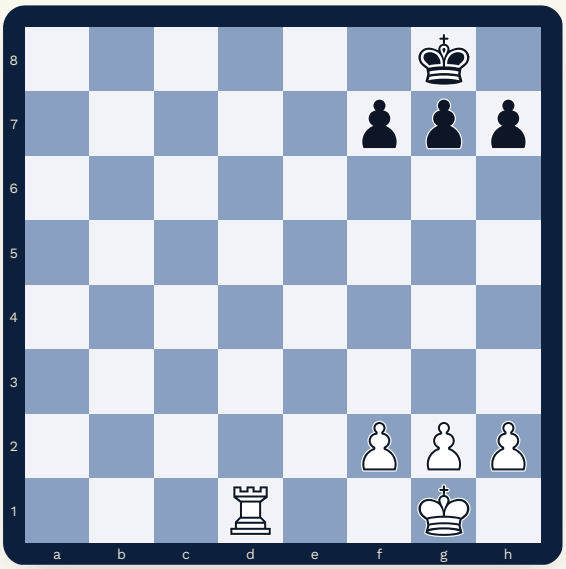
SAMPLE WORKSHEET 1

Checkmate in one

Level 1 · Chess Foundations. White to move in every position. Find the move that checkmates the black king.

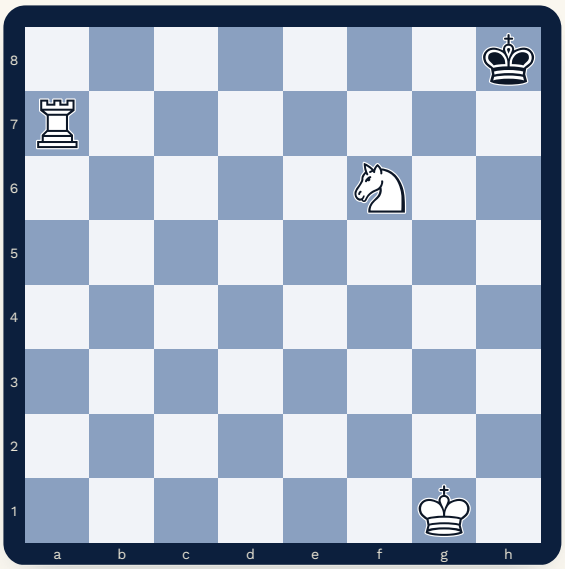
Name _____ Date _____ Score / 4

A Back-rank mate.



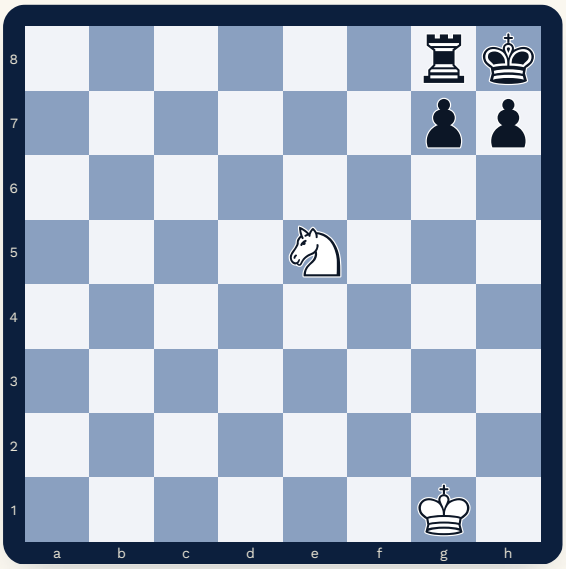
Answer: _____

B Rook and knight working together.



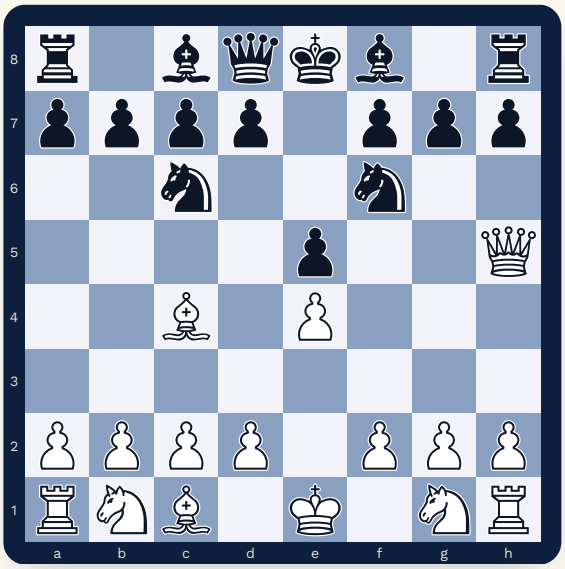
Answer: _____

C The king is boxed in by its own pieces.



Answer: _____

D A classic opening trap.



Answer: _____

> **Coach tip:** Before you touch a piece, check every move that gives check. Then say out loud where the black king can go.

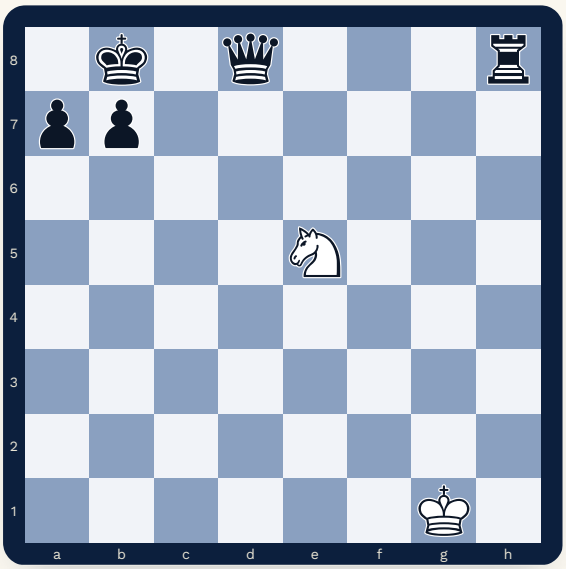
SAMPLE WORKSHEET 2

Tactical thinking

Level 2 · Tactical Thinking. White to move in every position. Look for the tactic.

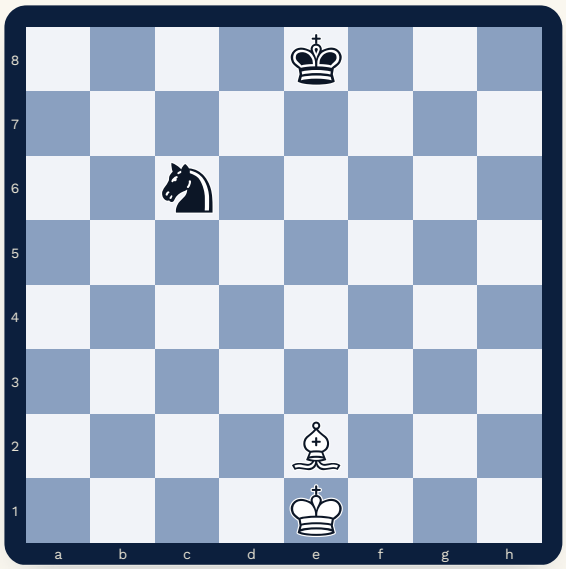
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A Fork: attack the queen and the rook with one move.



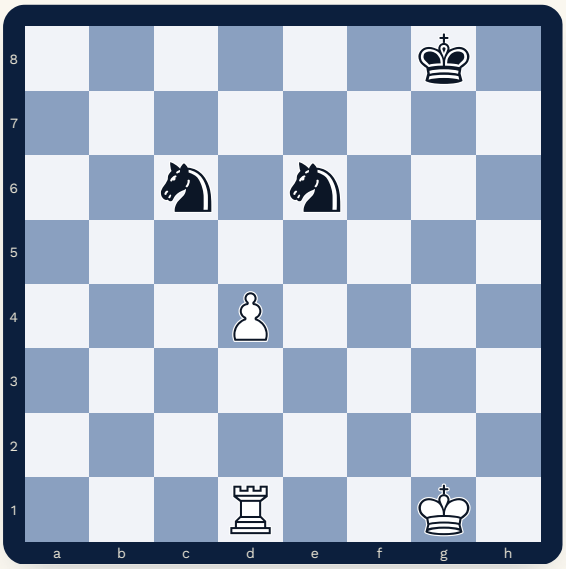
Answer: _____

B Pin: pin the black knight to the king.



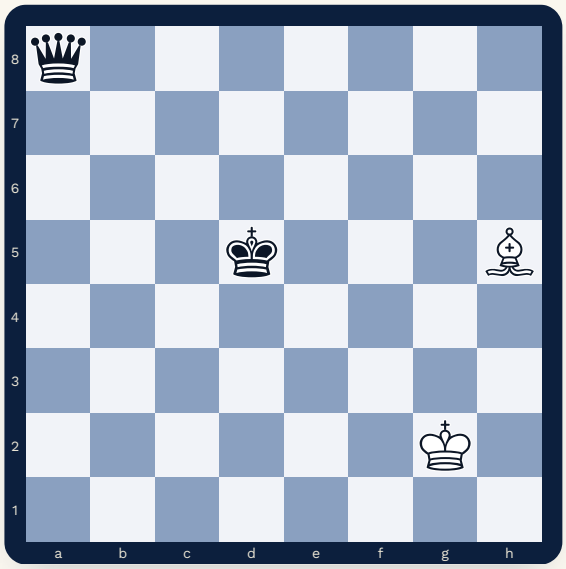
Answer: _____

C Pawn fork: attack both knights with one pawn move.



Answer: _____

D Skewer: give check so you can win the queen next.



Answer: _____

> **Coach tip:** Ask three questions: What is attacked? What is undefended? Which of my moves attacks two things at once?

CHESSPATH ACADEMY

Endgame Essentials · Questions

Student: Coach Musa Coach Musa Date: _____

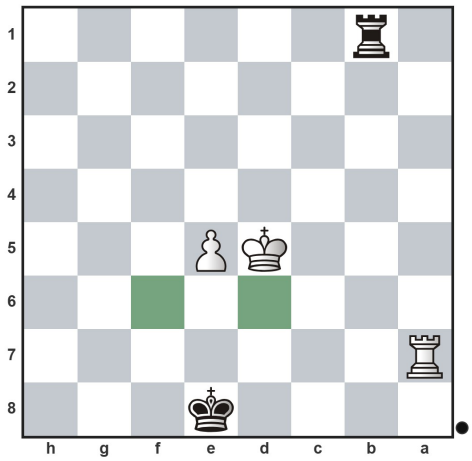
Score: _____ / 4

> **Good luck, Musa**

Philidor position

INTERMEDIATE - The third-rank defence

The defender keeps the rook on his 3rd rank (the 6th rank for Black). Now the white king cannot come forward. As soon as the pawn moves to the 6th rank, the rook goes to the back and gives checks from behind. The white king has nowhere to hide.



Third-rank defence

Black draws · Black to move

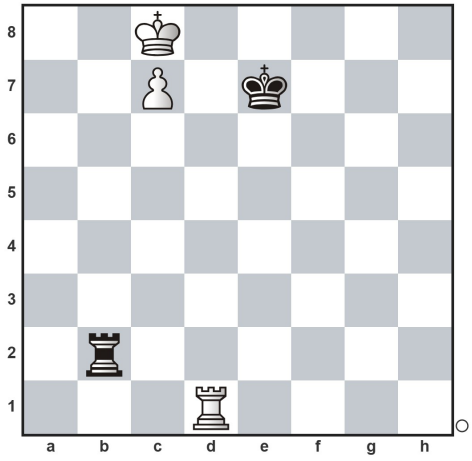
You are Black. The white king wants to go to d6 or f6 and help the pawn. Where must your rook go?

Your moves:

Lucena position

INTERMEDIATE - Build a bridge

This is the most important winning position in rook endings. White's king stands in front of its pawn on the 7th rank. The white king wants to come out and let the pawn queen, but then the black rook gives checks. The answer is to build a bridge: put your rook on the 4th rank to block the checks.



Building the bridge

White wins · White to move

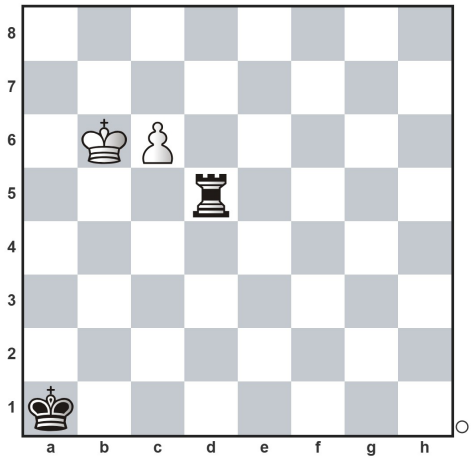
The white king is stuck in front of its pawn. The black rook stops it going to the b-file, and the white rook on d1 cuts the black king off from the pawn.

Your moves:

Saavedra position

ADVANCED - Make a rook, not a queen

Fernando Saavedra, 1895. White runs from the checks with the king, and when the pawn finally queens, a new queen would give stalemate. So White makes a rook instead, and wins!



Saavedra

White wins · White to move

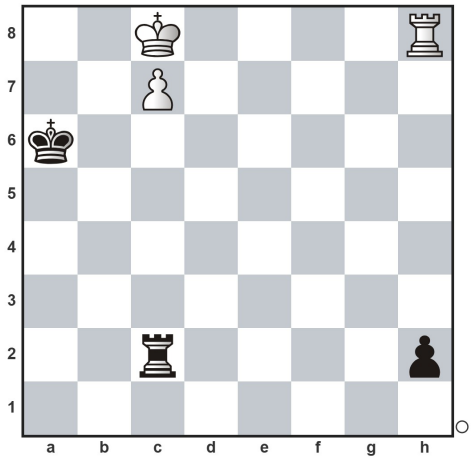
White to move and win. The c-pawn is about to queen. Black has only one hope: checks with the rook.

Your moves:

Lasker's staircase

ADVANCED - Walk down the stairs

Emanuel Lasker, world champion. White's king walks down a staircase (b8, a7, b7, a6, b6, a5...) and every time the black king comes closer, the white rook checks it one rank lower. In the end the white rook takes the h-pawn with a pin, and the c-pawn queens.



The staircase

White wins · White to move

White wants to queen the c-pawn, but the black rook stops it and the h-pawn is dangerous. The white rook must stay on the h-file.

Your moves:

COACH ANSWER KEY

Solutions for both worksheets

EXERCISE	ANSWER	WHY IT WORKS
Worksheet 1 · A	**Rd8#**	The rook lands on the back rank and the pawns block the king's escape.
Worksheet 1 · B	**Rh7#**	The rook is protected by the knight, and the knight also covers g8.
Worksheet 1 · C	**Nf7#**	Smothered mate: the king's own rook and pawns trap it.
Worksheet 1 · D	**Qxf7#**	The queen is protected by the bishop and the king has no escape.
Worksheet 2 · A	**Nf7**	The knight forks the queen on d8 and the rook on h8.
Worksheet 2 · B	**Bb5**	The knight on c6 cannot move: it shields its king.
Worksheet 2 · C	**d5**	The pawn attacks both knights. One of them will be lost.
Worksheet 2 · D	**Bf3+**	Check! The king must move, then Bxa8 wins the queen.

SAMPLE PROGRESS SCORECARD

Review template

Filled in with the student at each progress review. Shown here blank.

SKILL	RATING (1 TO 5)
Tactics	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Calculation	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Endgames	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Opening principles	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Concentration	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Tournament readiness	○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Student: _____

Review date: _____

Goal: _____

Next focus: _____

THE CHESSPATH CURRICULUM

A structured chess journey

Students progress through six levels, at their own pace.

1 Chess Foundations

Board setup, piece movement, captures, check, checkmate and basic rules.

2 Tactical Thinking

Forks, pins, skewers, double attacks, removing the defender and basic combinations.

3 Strategic Thinking

Development, centre control, king safety, pawn structure, weak squares and planning.

4 Calculation

Candidate moves, visualisation, calculation techniques and evaluating positions.

5 Endgames

King and pawn endings, rook endings, basic theoretical positions and technical conversion.

6 Competitive Chess

Opening preparation, tournament strategy, game analysis, clock management and practical decisions.



Ready to start your chess journey?

Coach Musatwe Simutowe is a FIDE Candidate Master and FIDE Instructor with more than 20 years of coaching experience. He represented Zambia at the Chess Olympiads in Baku 2016 and Batumi 2018.

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Online worldwide · Private coaching in Dubai · Contact Coach Musa to book your first lesson.

Chess pieces: Merida, by Armando Hernandez Marroquin. Sample pages are examples of format and show no real student information.