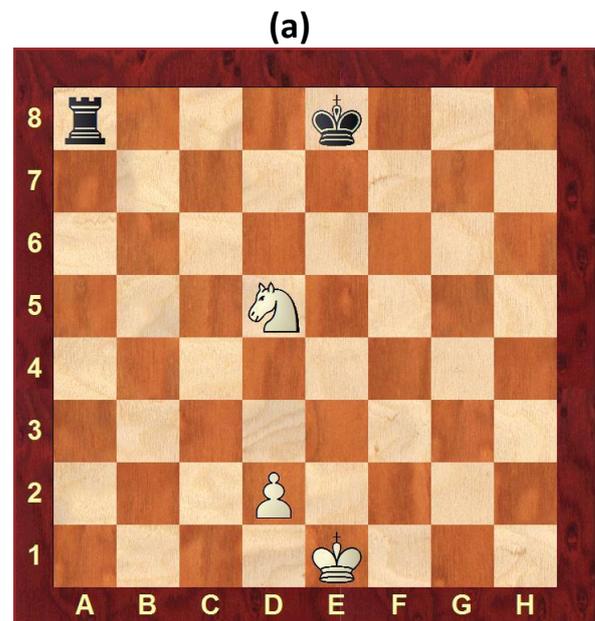


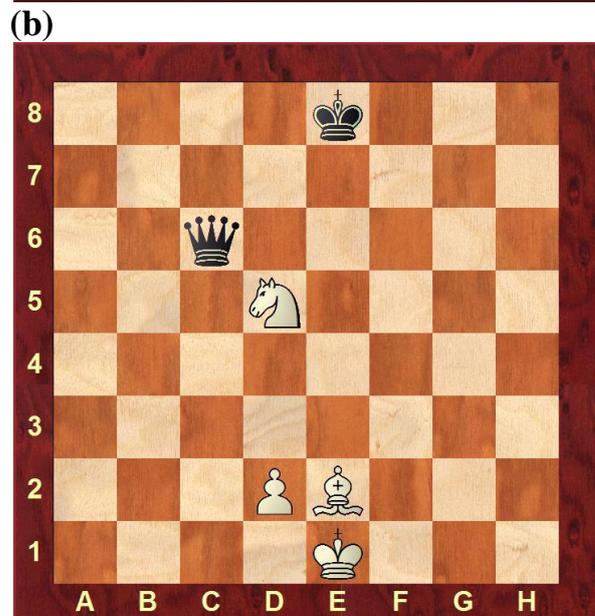
Knight forks - simple to complex (part 1)

Knight forks can be very simple or quite tricky. The theme is always the same though, your opponent must have pieces on squares so that both can be attacked by a knight at the same time. Of course you may be able to lure your opponent to put pieces on the right squares. The exercises below come from Bruce Pandolfini's excellent series at Chess Cafe (www.chesscafe.com).

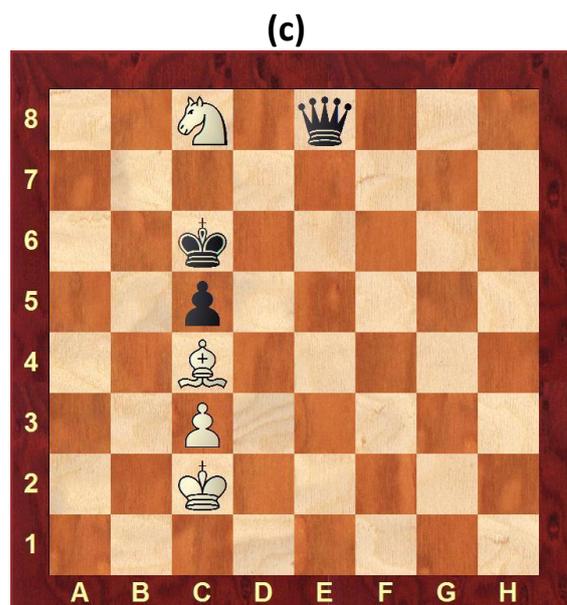
Look at position (a) White to play, what is the fork move? Can Black then trap the white N? Who should win the game or will it be a draw?



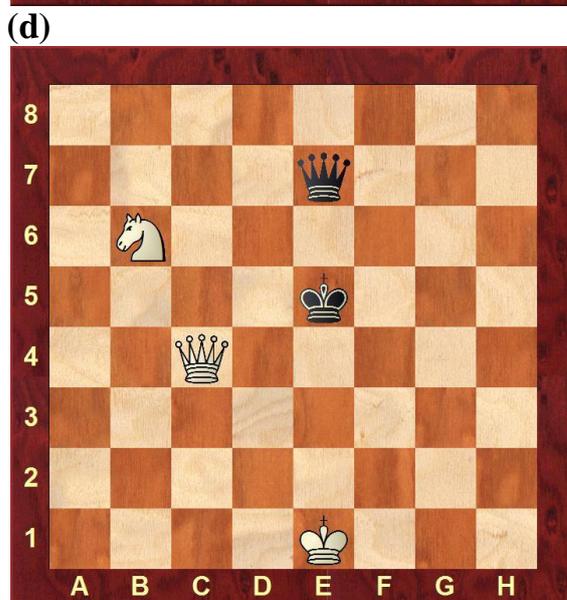
Look at position (b) can White force black's Q to a square that then allows a fork by the knight? Who will then win? If it is Black's move what would you play?



Look at position (c). This is similar to problem (b) but now White wants to make the black K move so a knight fork can be played.



Now to position (d). At first sight this looks like a draw but White can actually win by forcing the black K to a square that allows the white N to fork this and the black queen.



Knight Fork Problems (answers are [HERE](#))

This month's problems - Novice
Problem N29

Problem N30



N29 (a) White to play and win either a piece or deliver checkmate!
 (b) If it were Black's move what would you play?



N30 (a) White to play checkmate in 2 moves!
 (b) If it were Black to play what move would you make?

This month's problems - Intermediate

Problem 129



129 White has just played 1.g3. How should Black respond?



130 (a) White to play what is the best move?
 (b) If it were Black's move what would you play?

Solutions to last month's problems - Novice

Problem N27



N27 Black to play and win a piece within 3 moves!

Answer

- 1..... Rxc3 and if White replies
 2 bxc3 Qh2+!
 3. Bd2 or K move allows
 3. Bxa1

Problem N28



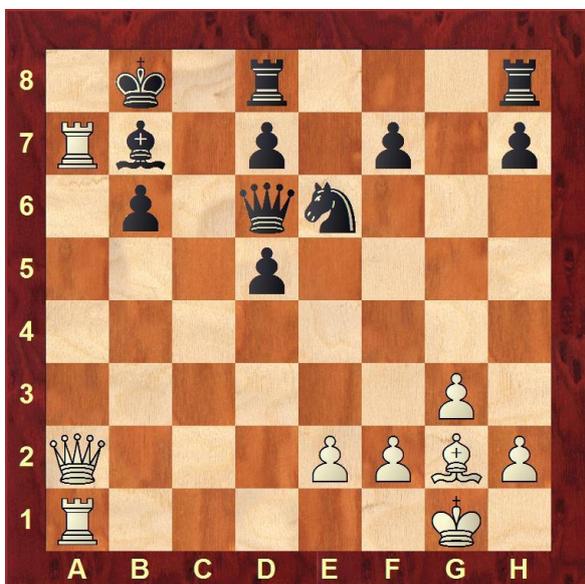
N28 White to play and give checkmate in just 2 moves!

Answer

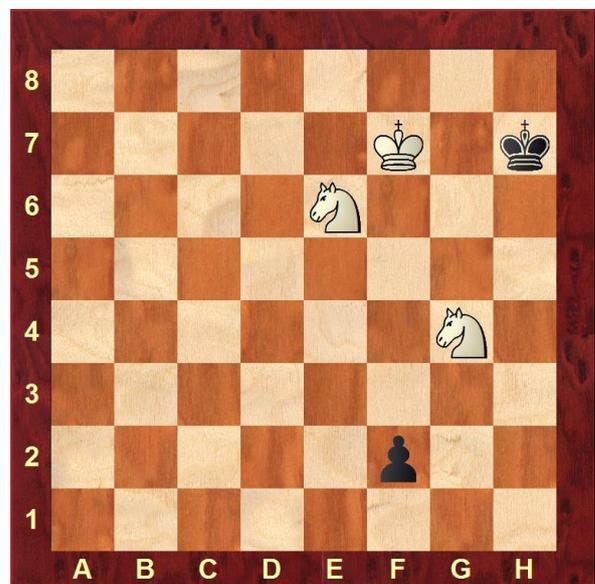
1. Rg3! any move by Black
 2. Rh1#

Solutions to last month's problems - Intermediate

Problem I27



Problem I28



127 White to checkmate in 4 moves (be careful as Black has some good defence moves) or wins the Black queen and mate in 5

Answer

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 1. Rxb7+ | Kxb7 |
| 2. Bxd5+ | Kc8 |
| 3. Qa6+ | Kc7 |
| 4. Qb7# | |

Note that 3. Qa8+ allows the reply Qb8 and no longer mate in 4.

If Black tries 2..... Qxd5 then 3. Qxd5+ and mate in 2 more moves

128 (a) White to checkmate in 3 moves.

(b) what would happen if Black's pawn was not on the board?

Answer

- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| 1. Nf8+ | Kh8 (forced) |
| 2. Nf6 | f8(=Q) (forced) |
| 3. Ng6# | |

please note the move 2. Nf6 blocks the check when the Black pawn is promoted.

(b) If there is no Black pawn the game is drawn

Answers to Knight Fork Problems (return to Problems [HERE](#))

Problem (a)

White plays

1. Nc7+ so the black K and rook are forked.

Black can reply

- 1..... Kd7 and after
2. Nxa8 Kc6 and the white N has not escape squares and the black K can to to b7 and win the N.

White still wins as while the black K attack the white N in the corner the white K moves up the e-file ahead of the pawn on the d-file and shepherds the pawn to the 8th rank to gain either a R or Q and then gives checkmate.

PROBLEM (c)

This has the same idea as Problem (c) but now White SKEWERS the black queen behind the black king with

1. Bb5+ If Black moves the K then White takes the Q and if Black takes the B with the K then Nc7+

Problem (b)

White plays

1. Bb5 this PINS the black Q in front of the K and if black then takes the B (1.... Qxb5) then white replies 2. Nc7+ and forks the black K and Q.

White will then win by again using the K (helped by the N) to push the pawn up the board to gain a R or Q.

If it were Black's move then 2..... Qxd5 wins the white N and the rest is an easy win for Black.

PROBLEM (d)

The clever move by White is 1. Qe2+ and Black must move the K so it still defends the black Q.

If

- 1..... Kd6 then
2. Nc8+ forks the K and Q

If

- 1..... Kf6 then
2. Nd6+ also forks the K and Q.

forks both of Black's pieces and
again White will win the game.

If you answered these question correctly then you are on
the way to becoming a KNIGHT FORK EXPERT!