



ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION

CHESS SKILLS

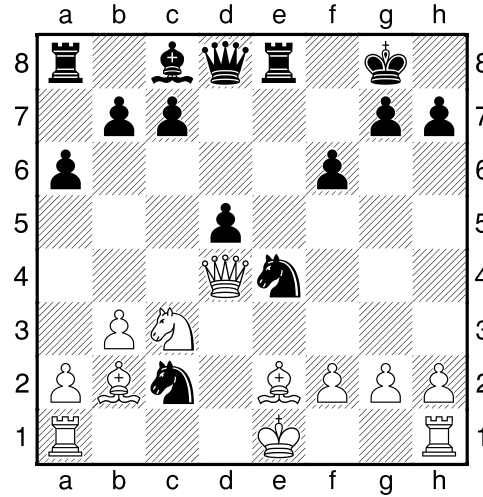
The Knight Fork

Adapted from the Chess Skills leaflets,
produced for the British Chess Federation by JE Littlewood and RA Furness.

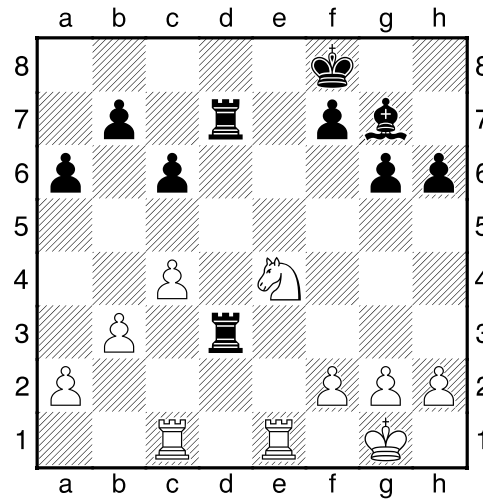
Developed from the Tactics for Juniors sheets
originally prepared by RG Wade, R Bott and S Morrison.

The Knight Fork

A knight fork is a knight attack on two pieces at the same time.



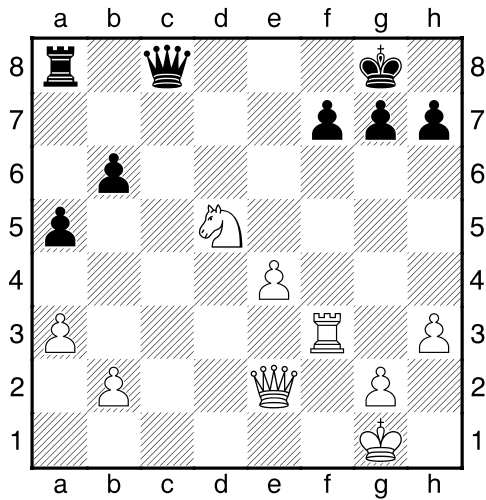
Here, the Black Knight attacks the White King, Queen and Rook – a family fork!



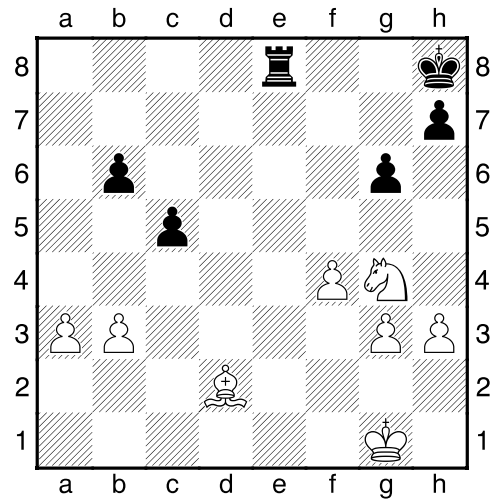
White plays Nc5 with a double attack on the two Black Rooks.

Find the Knight Fork

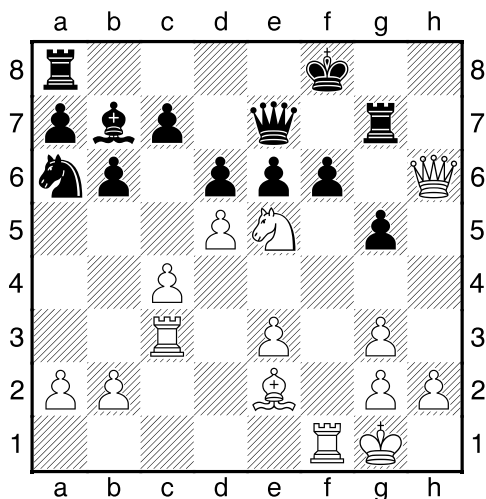
1. White to move has a Knight fork to win material



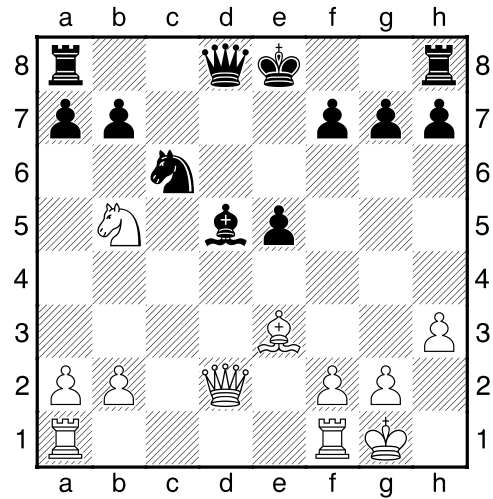
2. White forces Black to move into a Knight fork



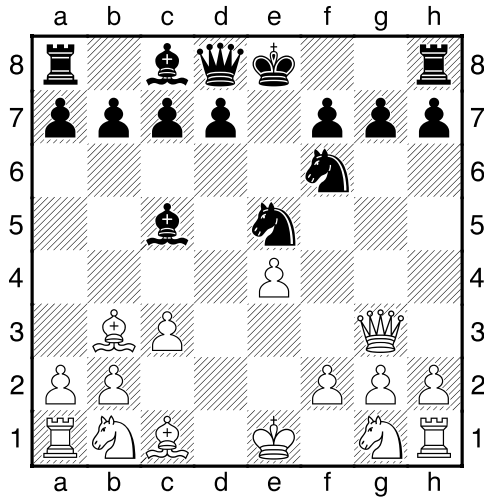
3. Again White has a knight fork to win material



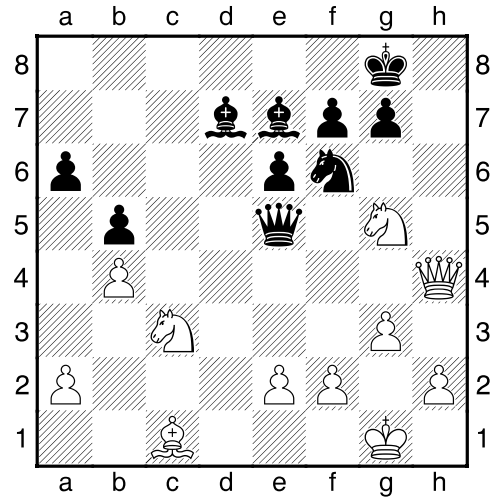
4. White's wins a piece because of a knight fork to follow



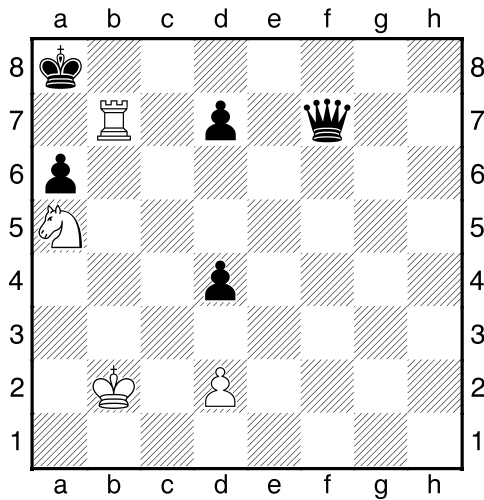
5. Black forces the White King or Queen to a fatal square for a decisive Knight fork



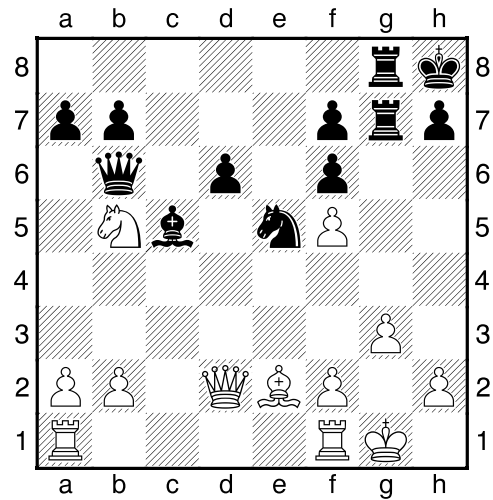
6. White to move



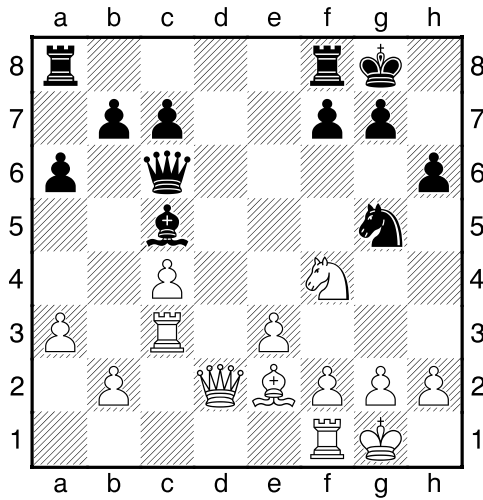
7. White moves to threaten mate, with a winning fork to follow



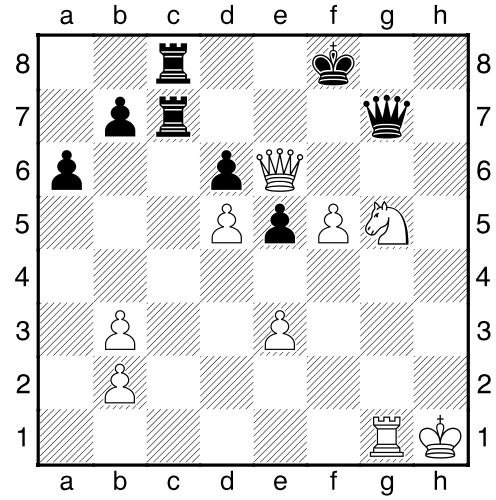
8. Black wins a piece due to a crushing Knight fork to follow



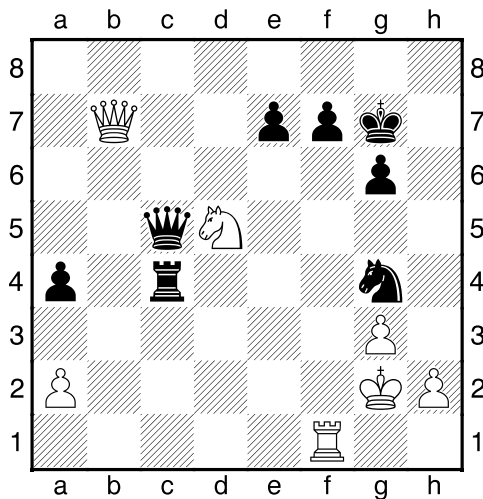
9. Find Black's next move



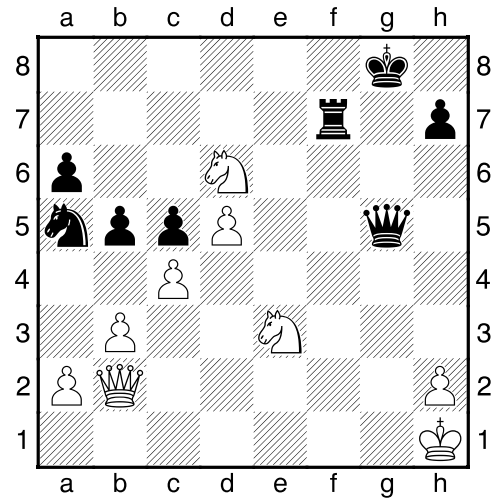
10. What should White play here



11. Black wins a piece because of a Knight fork to follow



12. What is White's best move and why



Answers

1. 1 Ne7+ forks the Black King and Queen
2. 1 Bc3+ Kg8 (if the Rook blocks the check, it is captured) 2 Nf6+ Kf8 3 Nxe8 Kxe8 and White has won the exchange, rook for knight.
3. 1 Ng6+ The Black Rook cannot capture because it is pinned against the King by the White Queen.
4. 1 Qxd5 Qxd5 2 Nc7+ forking the Black King and Queen. White then captures the Queen to emerge a Bishop to the good.
5. 1... Bxf2+. If the Bishop is not captured, it takes the White Queen on its next move. If 2 Kxf2 Nxe4+ forking the King and Queen. If 2 Qxf2 Nd3+ also forks King and Queen.
6. 1 Qh8+ Kxh8 2 Nxf7+ forking King and Queen
7. 1 Nc6 threatening both 2 Ra7 mate and Rb8 mate. If 1... dxc6 2 Rxf7. Now for the Knight fork. If after 1 Nc6 Kxb7 2 Nd8+ forking King and Queen and winning the Queen for the loss of a Rook.
8. 1... Qxb5 2 Bxb5 Nf3+ forking King and Queen. Black gains a Knight by these exchanges.
9. 1... Ne4 forking the White Queen and Rook, winning the exchange.
10. 1 Qxc8+ Rxc8 2 Ne6+ forks King and Queen
11. 1... Qxd5+. If White plays 2 Qxd5, Black forks King, Queen and Rook with 2... Ne3+
12. 1 Qh8+ because Black has to capture and then Nxf7+ forks King and Queen. White has won a Rook.