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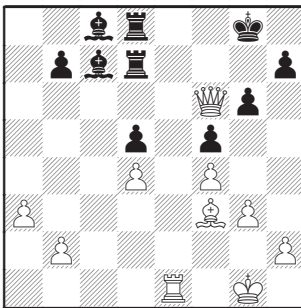
# Chapter 2

## Basic level puzzles

### Playing for mate

In these first 14 exercises your task is to try to mate the opponent or else gain a decisive material advantage, not immediately but after preparation.

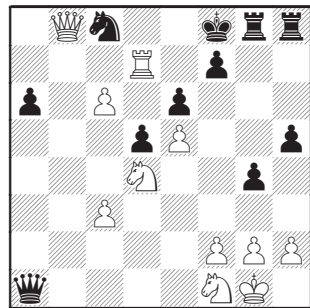
**Puzzle 1**



**White to move**

White has a decisive material advantage but it's possible to win the game immediately by deflecting a vital defender – how?

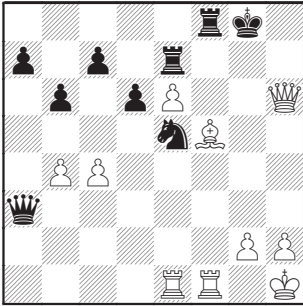
**Puzzle 2**



**White to move**

Black is ready to shelter his king on g7. How to prevent this?

**Puzzle 3**

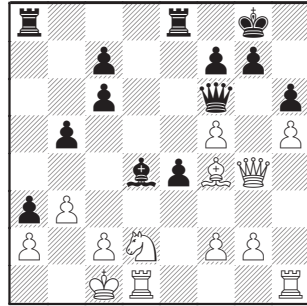


**White to move**

White has several ways to win, thanks to the weakness of the black monarch; the remoteness of the black queen, which is unable to aid the defence, is another factor.

There is a very quick way to win – what is it?

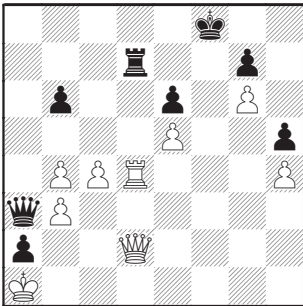
**Puzzle 5**



**Black to move**

The white king is very weak; what's the quickest way for the black queen to strike a decisive blow?

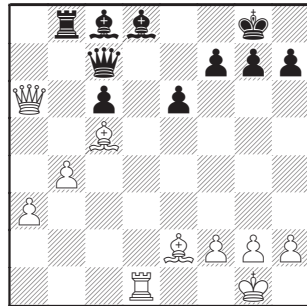
**Puzzle 4**



**Black to move**

The rook on d7 is attacked and there's no good defence, but... Black can counterattack – how?

**Puzzle 6**



**White to move**

The white queen is attacked, but there's a way to demonstrate that the black queen is overloaded, since it must defend two vital points. How can this be exploited?

# Solutions for Chapter 2

## Play for mate

### Puzzle 1

**Hint:** Try to deflect the defending rook away from Black's second rank.

30. ♖xd5+!

If 30... ♖xd5 then 31. ♖e7 and mate.

1-0

**Bernstein - John**, Ostend 1906.

### Puzzle 2

**Hint:** Try to open up the seventh rank, so that the black monarch can't escape.

32. ♘xe6+!

And mate is unavoidable; 32... fxe6  
33. ♖xc8++.

1-0

**Lazarevic - Todorova**, Candidates  
Tournament (Women), Plovdiv 1959.

### Puzzle 3

**Hint:** Allow the f1-rook to come into play with decisive effect.

33. ♖h7+!

If 33... ♖xh7 then 34. ♖xf8++.

1-0

**Keller - Gresser**, Candidates  
Tournament (Women), Plovdiv 1959.

### Puzzle 4

**Hint:** Bear in mind that the white monarch is very exposed.

46... ♖xb3!

Threatening mate on b1, which wins a rook after for instance 47. ♖e1 (47. ♖xd7 ♖b1++) 47... ♖b1+ (not necessary, but simplest) 48. ♖xb1 axb1 ♖+ 49. ♖xb1 ♖xd4.

0-1

**Lazarevic - Ladanyiye Karakas**,  
Women's Candidates Tournament,  
Plovdiv 1959.

### Puzzle 5

**Hint:** "Clearing the way."

22... ♖e3!

And it's not possible to prevent the entry of the queen, with mate on b2 or a1.

23. ♖de1

Or 23. fxe3 ♖b2++

23... ♖a1++

0-1

**Nepomniachtchi - Nakamura**,  
chess.com 2020.