Checkmating patterns

To win a game of chess, you need to checkmate the opposing king. It helps to practice setting up pieces in a way that gives checkmate. Work through all of these and write your answers on this sheet.

Checkmate with a king and a rook

First, put the black king in the center of the board and pick up the white king and a white rook. Can you place these white pieces on the board to put the black king in checkmate? Answer: ________. Next, put the black king on the edge of the board, not in a corner. Can you use the white king and rook to put the black king in checkmate? Answer: ________. Finally, put the black king in a corner. Can you put the black king in checkmate? Answer: ________. For the last two, is there more than one way to put the king and rook to give checkmate? Edge: ________. Corner: ________. On the back of this sheet, show your solution or solutions. For the black king, write K and circle it. Label the solution(s) “King and a rook”.

Checkmate with a king and a queen

Now try the same thing with a white king and queen. Can these two pieces checkmate the black king in the middle of the board? Answer: ________. On the edge? Answer: ________. In a corner? Answer: ________. Show your solution or solutions on the back of this sheet and label them.

Checkmate with two rooks

Pick up two white rooks and leave the white king off the board for a moment. Can the two white rooks alone checkmate the black king in the center of the board? Answer: ________. On the edge of the board? Answer: ________. In a corner? Answer: ________. Show your solution(s) on the back.

Stalemate

It is also possible to set up the white pieces to leave the game in stalemate: black is not in check, but cannot move. Show how this can happen in each of the three situations above. This would be bad news for white!

Checkmate with a king, a rook, and two pawns

Pick up the white king, one rook, and two pawns. Can white checkmate the black king in the center of the board? If so, show how on the back. Is there more than one really different way to do this?

Checkmate with two bishops

Give white two bishops. Is there anywhere on the board that these two bishops alone can checkmate the black king? Answer: ________. What if black had two bishops and a pawn? Answer: ________. Two bishops and a knight? Answer: ________. Two bishops and a king? Answer: ________.

Checkmate puzzle

You can add one white piece to the board at the right to checkmate black. What piece would you use, and where would you put it? In fact, there is more than one piece you can use. Find all of them and write them in chess notation, like Knight at c7. Don’t just use the queen!

Developed by Craig L. Zirbel, see [http://www-math.bgsu.edu/~zirbel/chess](http://www-math.bgsu.edu/~zirbel/chess)