

# How To Play Chess

**By Kevin R. Kosar**  
*Chess-In-the-Schools*

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Warm regards,



Kevin R. Kosar  
& The *Chess-In-the-Schools* Staff

# CHESS BASICS

## What is chess?

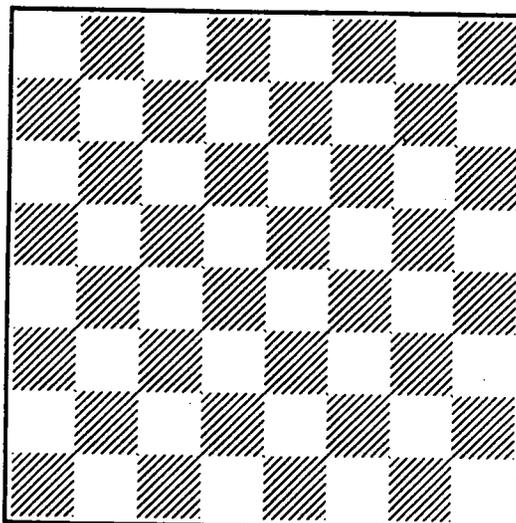
Some people say that chess is an art. Other people say chess is a science. And Bobby Fischer, great chess player, said “chess is life.” One thing we can all agree on is this: chess is fun!

## What kind of game is chess?

Chess is a board game played by two people. One player has 16 white (or light) pieces and the other has 16 black (or dark) pieces. First, the player with the white (or light) pieces moves one of his white (or light) pieces. Then the player with the black pieces moves one of his black pieces. Then white gets to move a piece. And then black moves a piece. You just keep taking turns moving your own pieces until the game ends.

## What does the chess board look like?

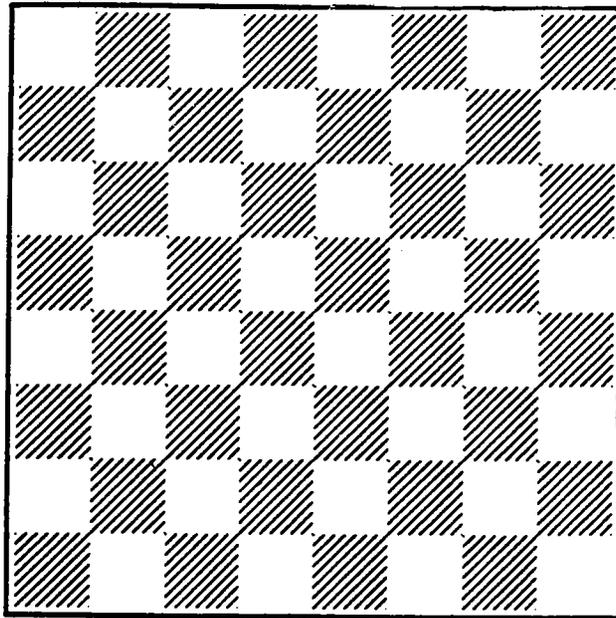
The chessboard is 8 squares wide and 8 squares long- that makes 64 squares ( $8 \times 8 = 64$ ). The squares on the chess board are white (or light) and black (or dark). See:



## HOW DO WE PLAY?

First, you need to set the board between you and the other player. When you set the board down, you each should have a white (or light) square on the right hand corner nearest each of you.

Your Opponent



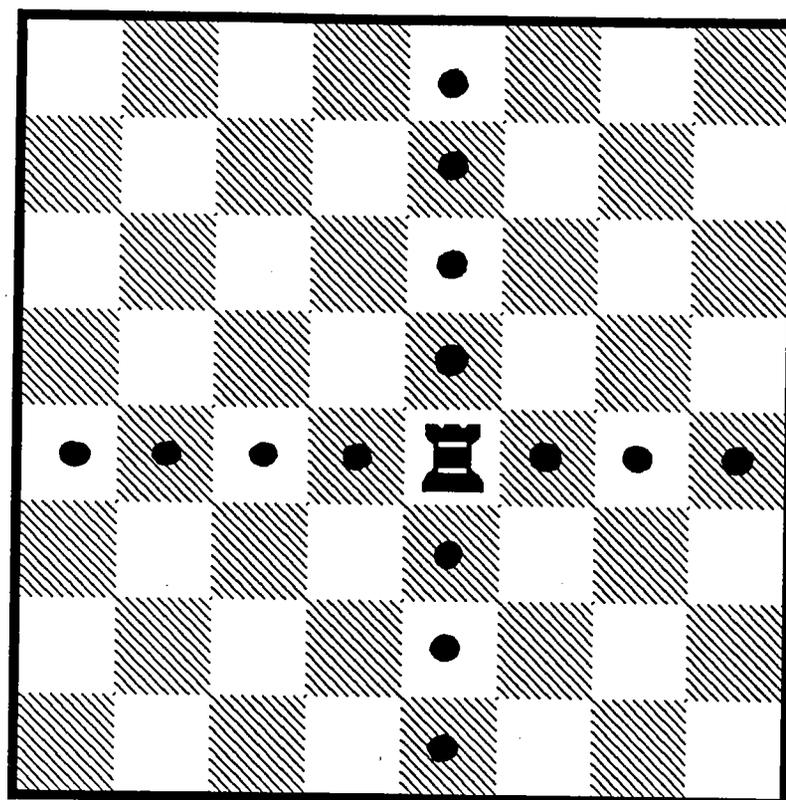
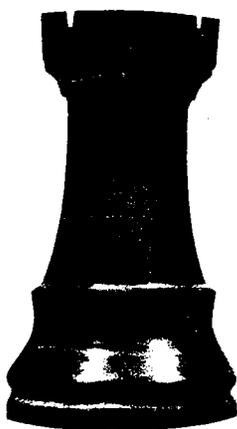
You

Don't forget: When you set the board between you and your opponent, white goes on the right!

Now it is time to learn what the chess pieces look like and how they move. There are 6 different kinds of chess pieces. Each is different and each moves in a different way.

## The Rook

Each player has two rooks. A rook can move straight forward, backward, to the left or the right. A rook can move as far as it wants. A black dot marks the squares to which the rook can move. See:



White rook ♖  
Black rook ♜

Did you know?

Rooks are sometime called "castles". That's because the rook chess piece looks like the corner of a medieval stone castle.

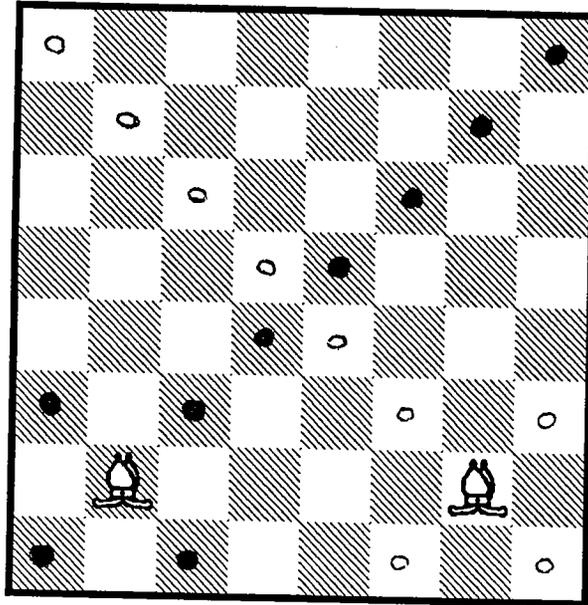
## The Bishop

Each player has 2 bishops. One rests on a white (or light) square, the other on a black (or dark) square. A bishop moves diagonally and can move as far as you want. But it always stays on the same color.

white bishop

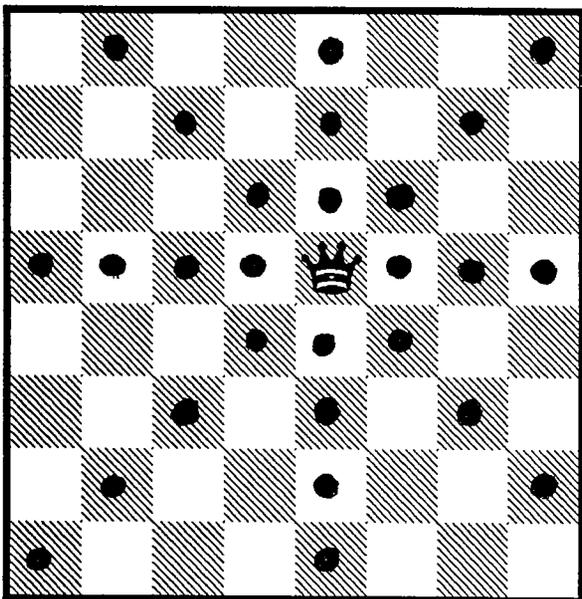


black bishop



## The Queen

The queen is the most powerful piece in chess. It can move in any direction. But best of all, it can move as many spaces as you want (or until it bumps into another piece!)



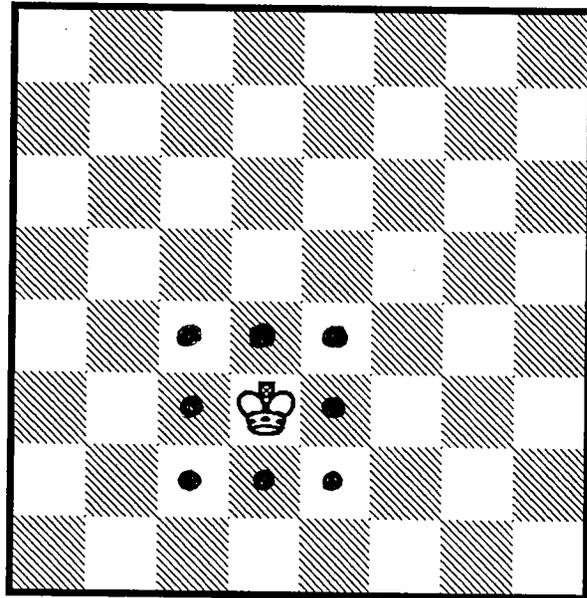
White queen: 

Black queen: 



# The King

The King moves one square per turn. The king can move in any direction. In the diagram below, you see the black king and the white king. A black dot marks where each king may move.



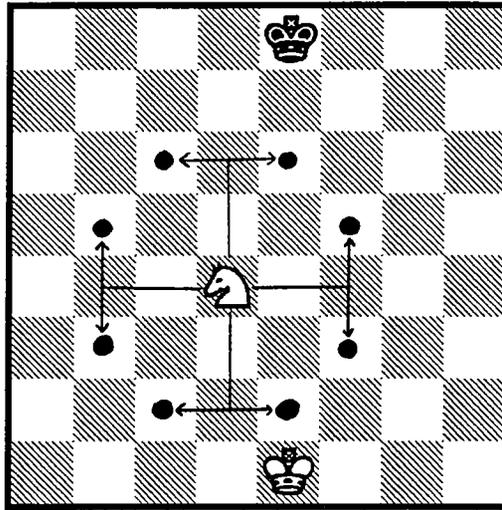
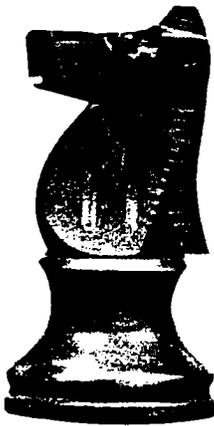
In chess diagrams, the king looks like this:

white king 

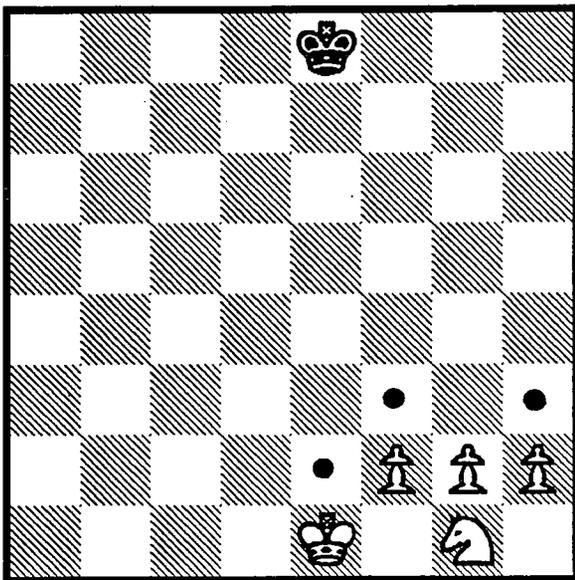
black king 

## The Knight

Each player has two knights. The knight looks like a horse's head because- you guessed it- a knight rides a horse! Unlike the other pieces on the board, knights do not move in a straight line. Instead, they move in an L shaped way. Two moves in one direction then a quick step to the left or right. Like this:



On the chess board, the knight may jump over other pieces. That's because he is riding a horse, of course! See:



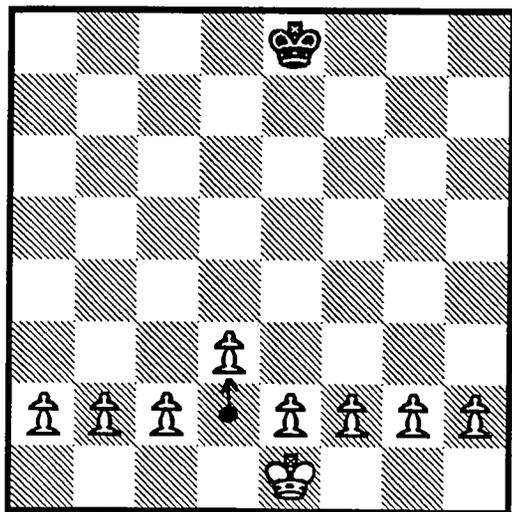
white knight 

black knight 

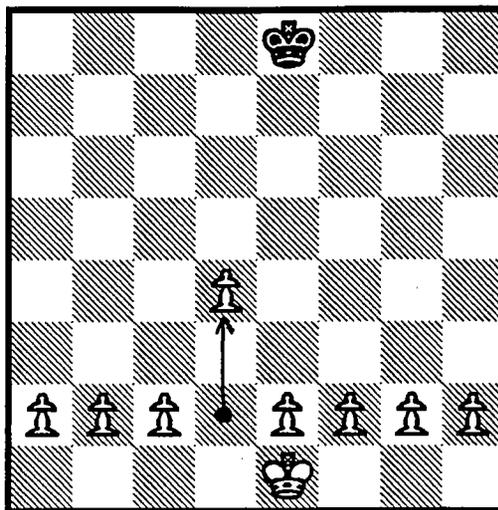
# The Pawn

Each player has 8 pawns. Moving the pawn is tricky- so listen closely! At the beginning of the game the pawns all stand in a line. You can move any one of them, though it is smartest to move one of the middle pawns. Now, when you move a pawn from its starting position, you may move it ONE or TWO squares forward. It's your choice! See:

move # 1



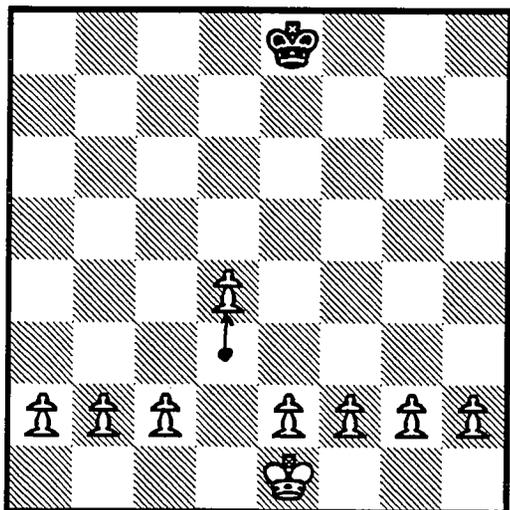
move #1



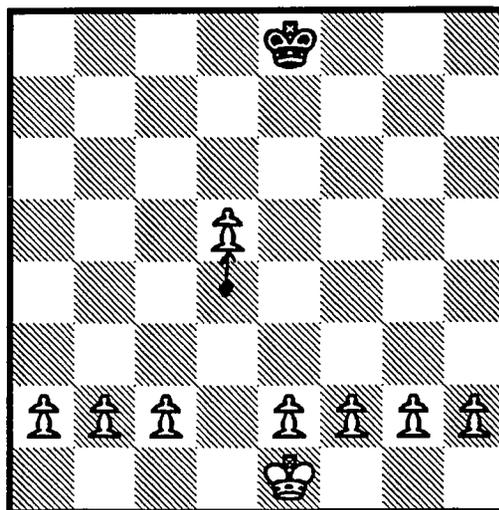
OR

Now, after a pawn has been moved from its starting position, you may move it only straightforward one square at a time. Like this:

move #2



move #2

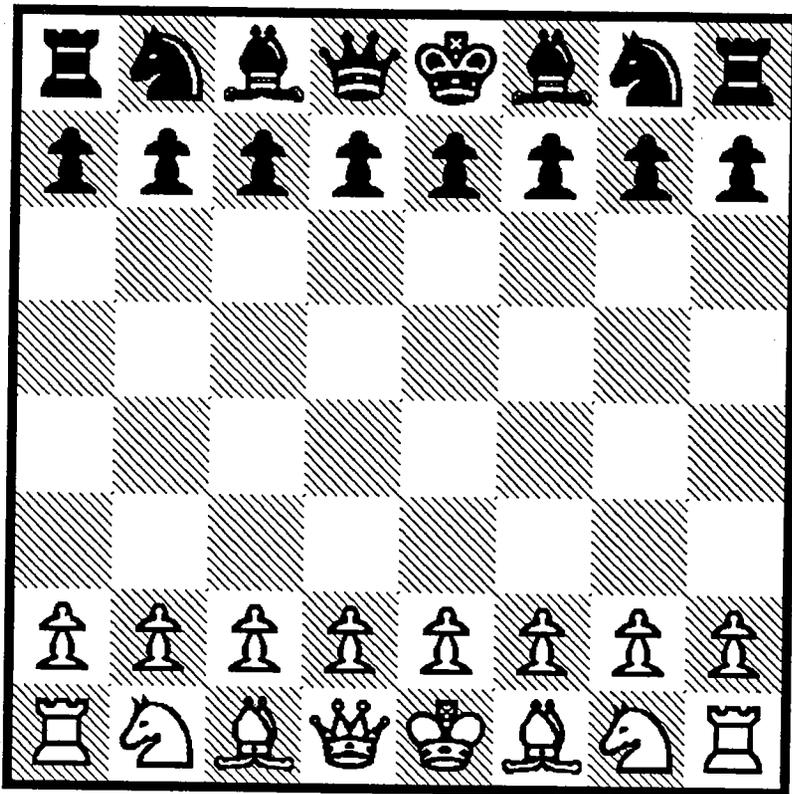


OR



-  white pawn
-  black pawn

Now it is time to get ready to play chess. You know need to set the pieces on the board. The pieces should be set up like this:



Don't forget: the black queen stands on a black square and the white queen stands on a white square.

Remember:

king= ♔ ♚

queen= ♛ ♜

bishop= ♗ ♝

knight= ♞ ♟

rook= ♖ ♗

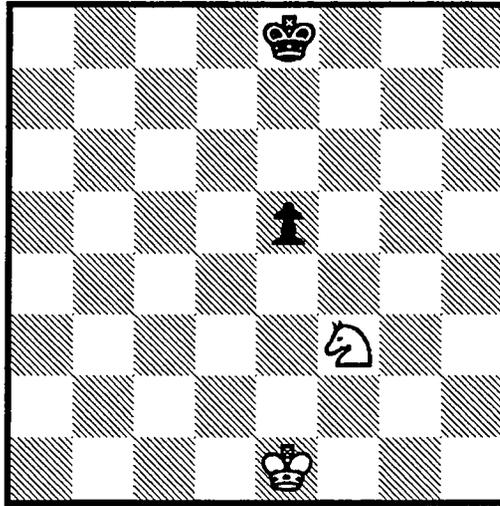
pawn= ♙ ♚

## How do you win at chess?

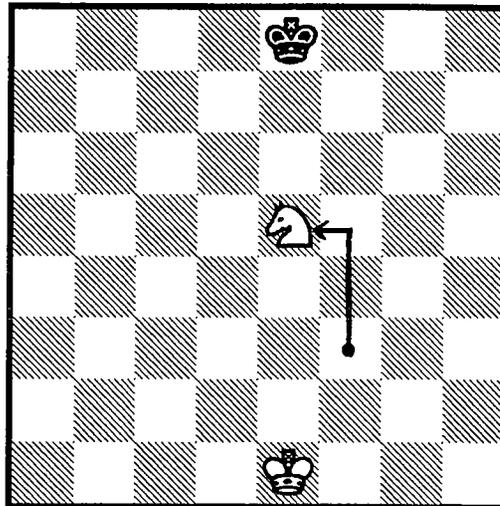
You win by capturing the other player's king. You lose if the other player captures your king. But how do you do that? What does "capture" mean?

## What is "capturing"?

Let's look at this diagram.



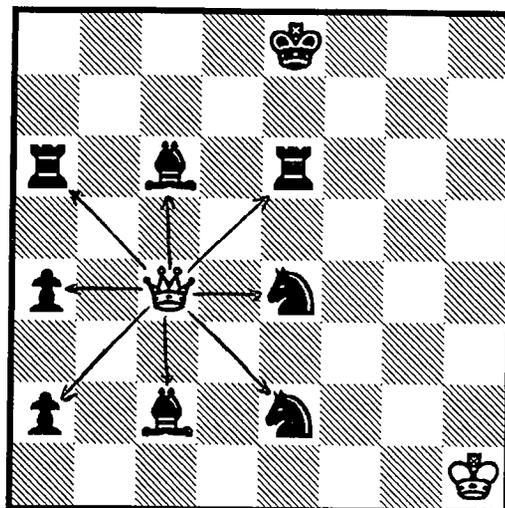
Here you see a white knight and a black pawn on the chess board. It is white's turn to move. He can capture this pawn by moving his knight on to the pawn's square.



It's that easy! You get to keep his pawn! So just set it beside the board, because it is out of the game. The rule to remember is: if you can move a piece to a square, then you can capture it!

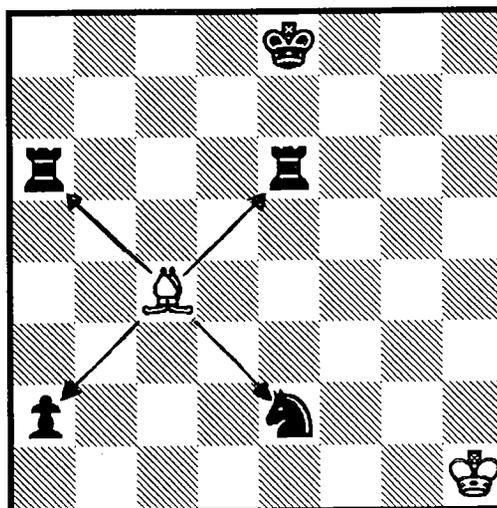
## How the Queen Captures

Here we see that the white queen can capture any of these black pieces- except the king.



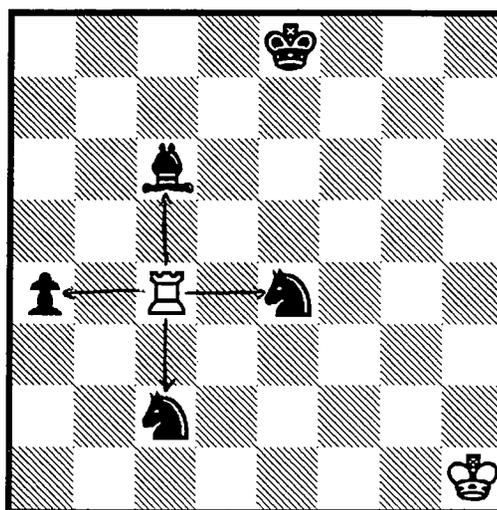
## How the Bishop Captures

The white bishop can capture any of these four pieces- but not the king.



## How the Rook Captures

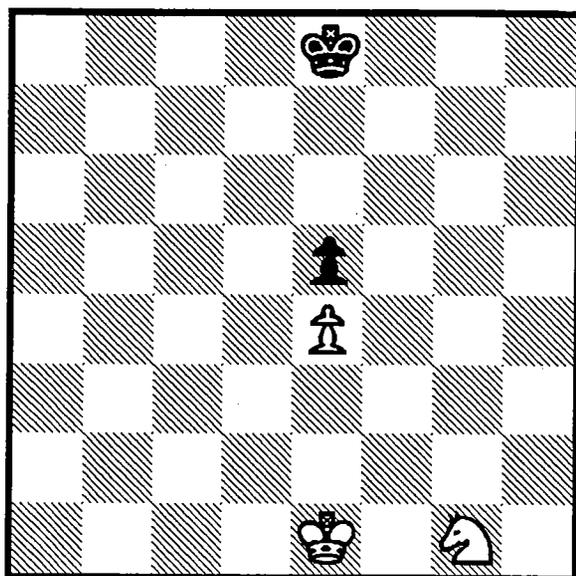
The white rook can capture any of these four pieces, but not the king.



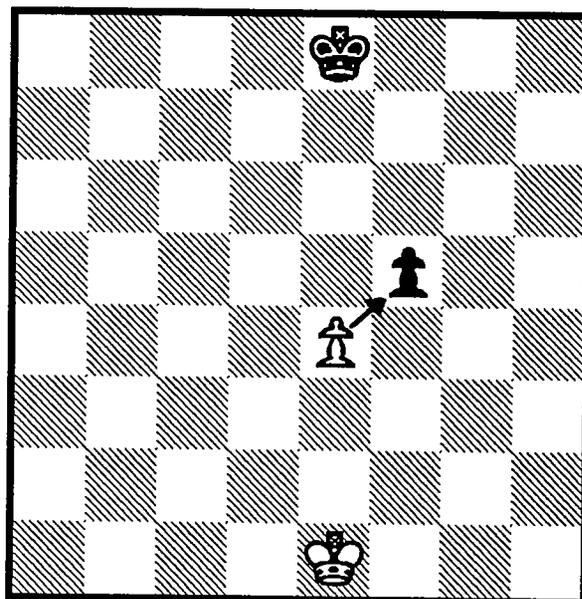
## How the Pawn Captures

The pawn captures is a strange way. He does not capture by moving straight on to another piece. He captures only the two diagonal squares in front of the square he rests upon.

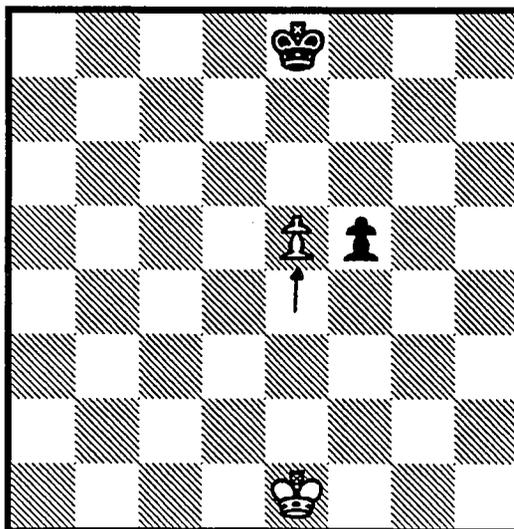
WRONG



RIGHT

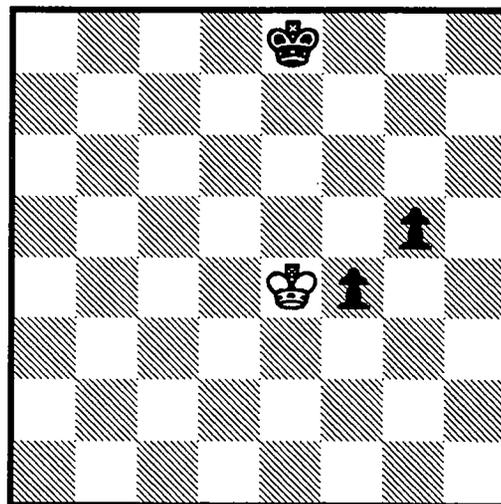
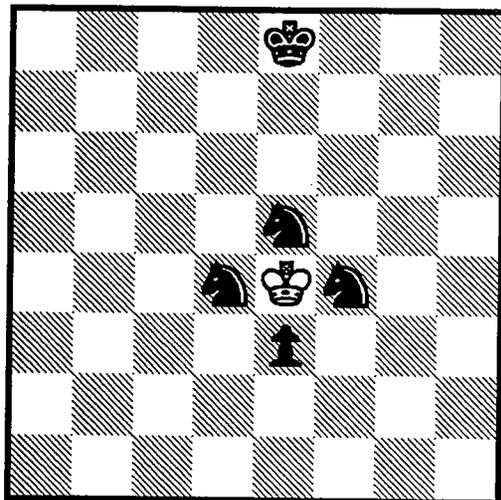


In the picture on the left, neither pawn can move. They're stuck! In the diagram on the right, see how the white pawn can capture the black pawn on the right or the black pawn on the left. Or, if you like, you can not capture and just move straight.

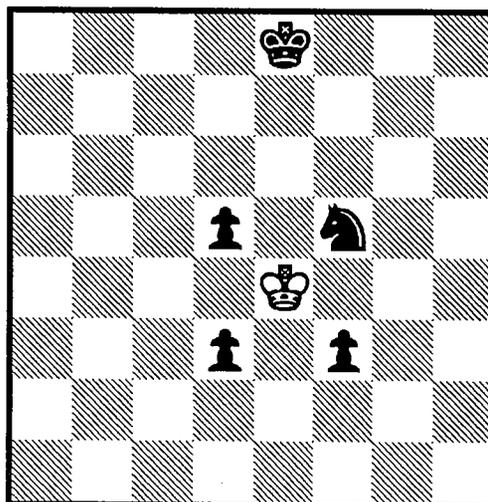


## How the King Captures

The king captures the same way he moves- straight, backward, left right, diagonally- one square at a time. Below, the king can capture any of these 8 pieces.



But, in this position, the king cannot capture the pawn to his right because that would put him in *check*. There's a rule against that, which goes: you can't move your king or another of your pieces if it puts you king in check. But what is *check*?



## What Is Check And Checkmate?

Check means that you or your opponent's king is under attack by an enemy piece. In the diagrams below, the white king is in check.

