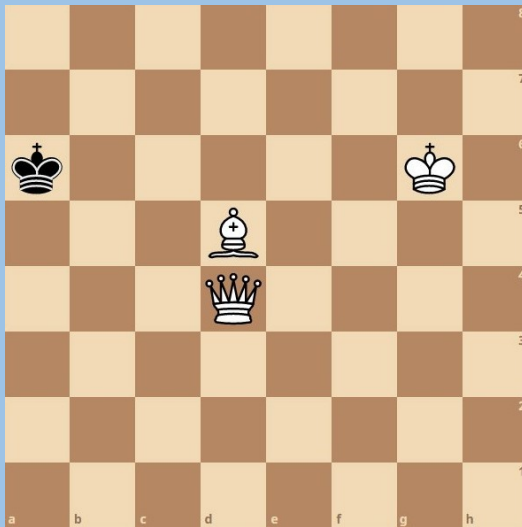


Lesson 24: The Draw

The Grandmaster Result



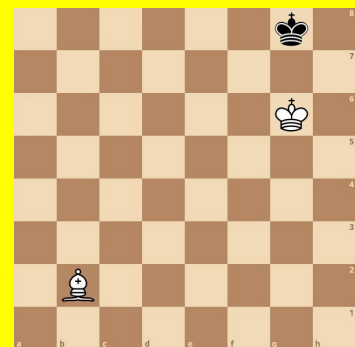
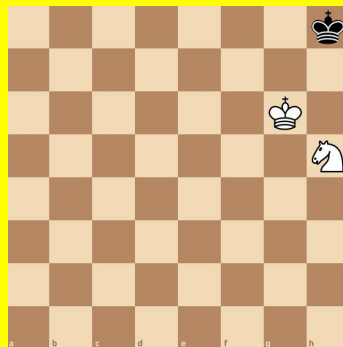
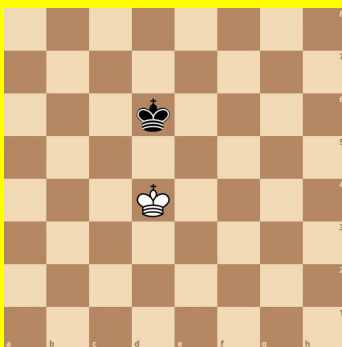
Many sporting contests result in either a win or a loss. In chess the game can also end in a **DRAW**. A draw is often a sign of a tough and closely fought game, where both sides battled to the very end. Many games between top players end in draws because they make so few mistakes. In the 2018 World Championship, all 12 games were drawn, before Magnus Carlsen beat Fabiano Caruana in the tiebreak.

We came across one type of draw in Lesson 7, the **STALEMATE**. One of the most famous stalemates occurred when Garry Kasparov, perhaps the greatest chess player ever, played 1. Qc5 in the position above. The Black king cannot move - it's a draw by **STALEMATE**. Instead 1. Qb4 would have led to a **KISS OF DEATH** checkmate on b7 next move.

Insufficient Material

In the last worksheet we learnt how to checkmate with a king and rook against a king. A single pawn is also enough to force checkmate; it can promote to a new queen. However, it's impossible to deliver a checkmate with a lone knight or a single bishop. You can chase your opponent's king around the board and you might even reach a stalemate, but you will never win the game. In this case the game is declared a draw by **INSUFFICIENT MATERIAL**.

The positions below are all drawn by insufficient material. Can you find the White moves that lead to immediate stalemates in the last two diagrams?



Draw by Agreement

If a game is equal and there is little prospect of either side winning, the players can agree to a draw. This is called a draw by AGREEMENT. A draw by agreement after only a few moves is sometimes called a Grandmaster Draw.

If your opponent offers you a draw remember you don't have to accept. You might be able to play on and win!

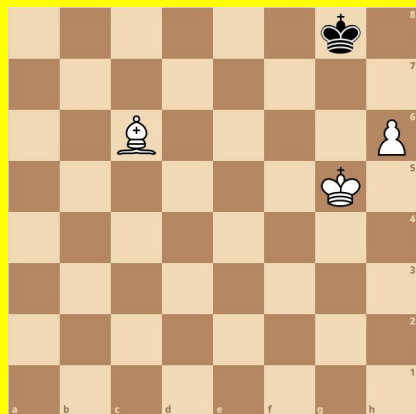
50 Move Rule

Suppose a game is completely level but your opponent is stubbornly refusing to agree to a draw. Do you have to play on for ever? No! If 50 moves are played without a pawn being moved or a piece being captured, you can claim a draw by the 50 MOVE RULE.

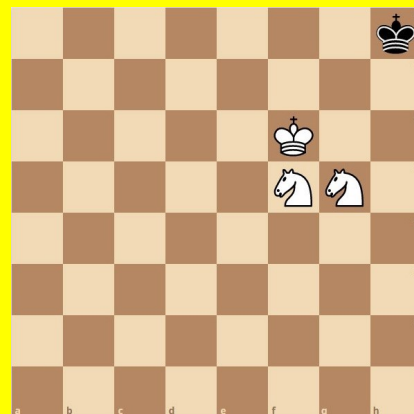
How do you know 50 moves have been played? Write down your moves (Worksheet 21).

Winning Advantage?

Chess can be a draw even with large material advantages. On the left, Black moves the king between the squares h7, g8, and h8 forever, preventing pawn promotion. The best White can achieve is stalemate. On the right, despite



being six points ahead, White cannot force checkmate. If Black defends well the game will also end in a draw by stalemate. Why not set these positions up and practise defending as Black? You might need to do that to save a real game one day.



Draw by Repetition

You can claim a DRAW BY REPETITION if the same position appears on the board three times at any point in the game. Be careful though, it has to be the same player's move each time.

Adjudication

If you start playing in tournaments you may run out of time to finish a game. The ARBITER (referee) may then ADJUDICATE (judge) the game. If the position is level a draw may be the result.