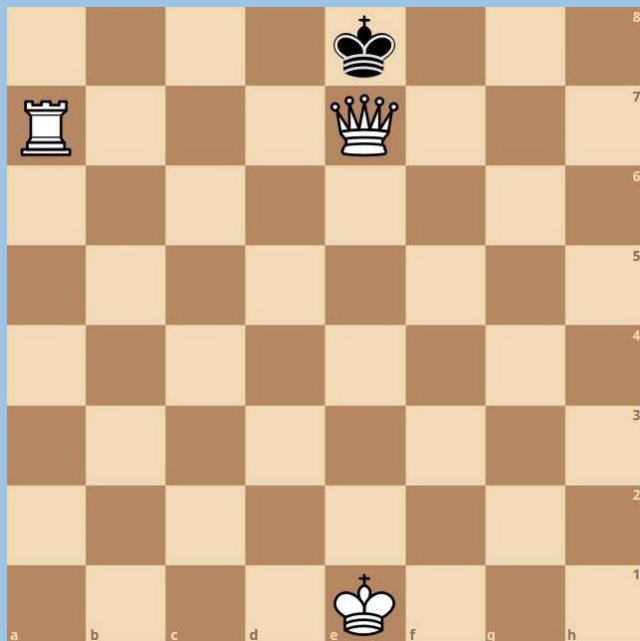


## Lesson 12: Queen Checkmates



### Kiss of Death Checkmate

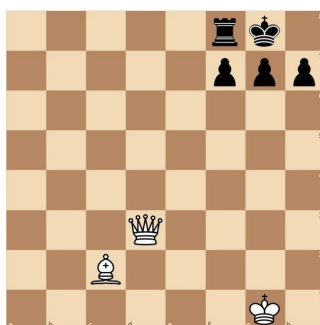
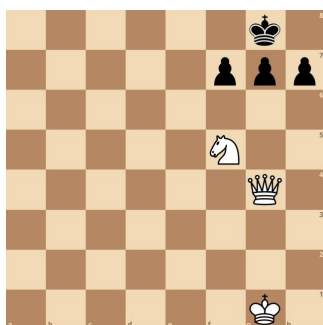
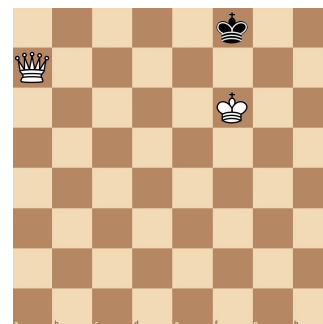
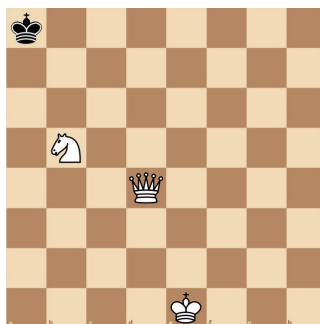
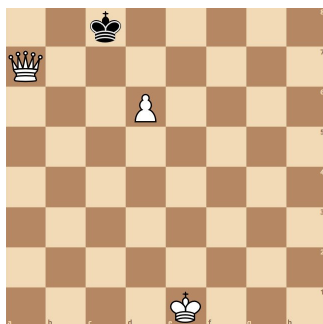
The queen is your strongest piece because she attacks more squares than any other piece on the board. This makes her an excellent piece for delivering checkmate.

Here the White queen is checking the Black king. Black cannot **A**void the check nor **B**lock it. The king cannot escape the check by **C**apturing the queen either—she is being defended by the rook on a7. It is checkmate!

This method of moving the queen to a square right next to your opponent's king supported by another piece is a great way to get checkmate. We call it the KISS OF DEATH CHECKMATE.

### Puzzle Corner

Can you find the Kiss of Death checkmate for White in these positions?





## Scholar's Mate

There is a sneaky way White can try to checkmate Black in just four moves. Suppose White begins by playing their pawn on e2 to e4. Black plays their pawn from e7 to e5. These are both good developing moves.

Now White plays their queen to h5, attacking the pawn on e5. Black moves their knight from b8 to c6 defending the pawn. Finally White plays their bishop from f1 to c4 (see diagram, left). The trap is set!

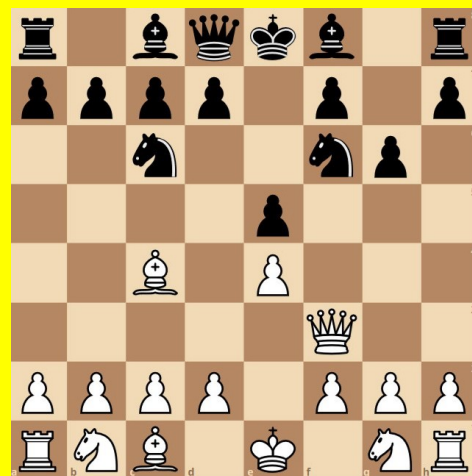
Black sees a way to attack the White queen and moves their knight from g8 to f6. We've reached the final puzzle from the previous page. White now captures the pawn on f7 with their queen. The queen is defended by the bishop on c4. It's the dreaded Kiss of Death checkmate.

So many new chess players have fallen for this trap, it's called **SCHOLAR'S MATE**.

## Stopping Scholar's Mate

If White moves their queen out to h5 early in the game, alarm bells should go off in your head: they may be trying to checkmate you on f7! Here are two good ways to prevent it. From the diagram above:

1. Move your Black queen to e7 or f6, adding an extra defender to your pawn on f7. White can still capture it but will end up losing two points if they do.
2. Move the pawn from g7 to g6, blocking the queen. Watch out though: White may move the queen to f3, threatening checkmate once more. Now you can block again, moving your knight on g8 to f6 (right).



Scholar's Mate is one of the saddest ways to lose a game. Don't let it happen to you!

### Why don't Grandmasters try Scholar's Mate?

It may be good fun checkmating a few beginners with Scholar's Mate, but when you play more experienced players it won't work. Worse than that, you'll then have your queen developed before the rest of your pieces. She may even get trapped! In the opening, it's far better to concentrate on the three Golden Rules we described in Lesson 10.

### Grandmaster Test Lesson 11

**Answer:** White needs to move the rook on h5 to b5 before continuing with the Lawnmower Checkmate. White next moves the rook to b7 followed by the other rook to a8. Whatever Black does, it's checkmate on the back rank.