

CHESS TIPS FOR JUNIORS

**A series of leaflets for
young chess players**

CASTLING

2 Castling

What's the point of castling?

Castling is one of the most unusual moves in chess, as it involves moving two pieces - the king and rook - in a single move. Because the king moves two squares when castling (it normally can only move one square), the move can only be completed by moving the rook too.

Castling enables you to do two good things at the same time:

- 1 To put your king into a place of safety (but **beware** of the back-rank mate!)
- 2 To bring your rook into the centre where it can do more damage.

When can you castle?

You can only castle when all the pieces between king and rook have been moved out of the way. You can castle either side.

When can't you castle?

There are four reasons why you may not be able to castle. It's important that you learn these:

You **cannot** castle if:

- a) you have already moved either the king or the rook (if you move one rook, you can still castle with the other one).
- b) You are in check.
- c) You would be moving (following castling) into check.
- d) You would be moving (during castling) through check.

On the next page are examples of when you can and cannot castle.

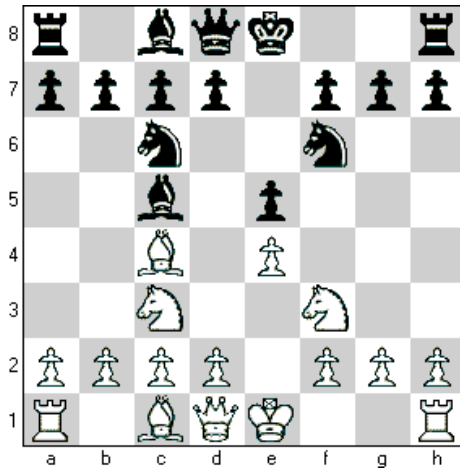


Diagram 1

Both White and Black can castle.

Diagram 2

White cannot castle, as his King is in check.

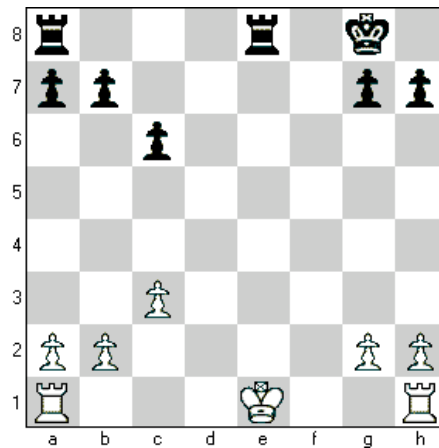


Diagram 3

White cannot castle, as his King would then be in check.

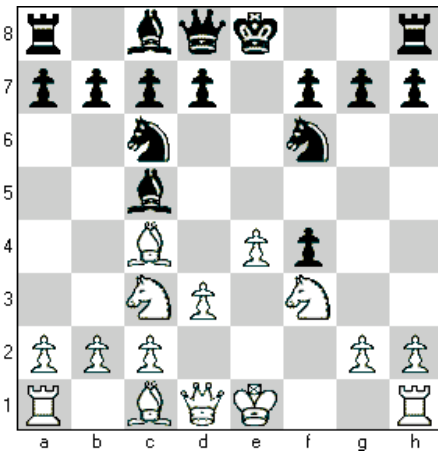
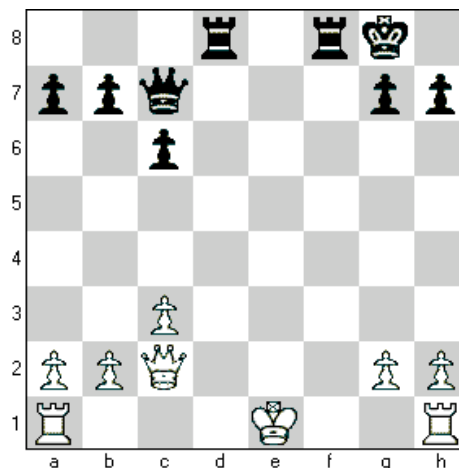


Diagram 4

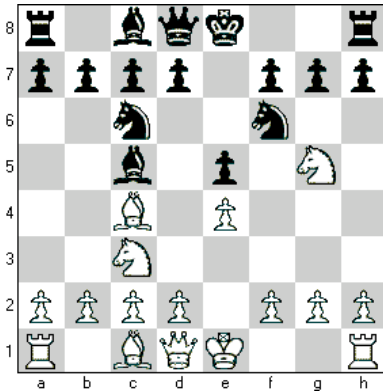
White cannot castle **either** side, as his king would be moving through check.



EXERCISES

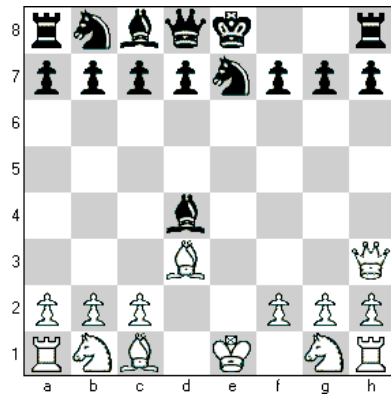
In the following diagrams, decide firstly if you can castle and then, whether or not it would be a good idea to do so.

1



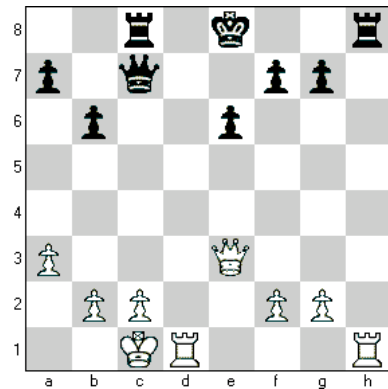
Can Black castle?
Is it a good idea?

2



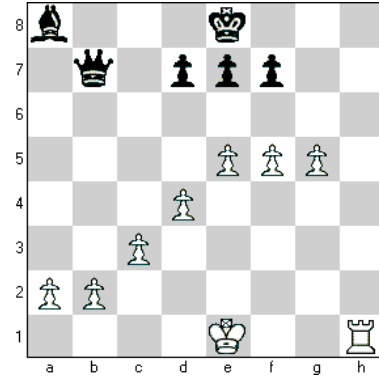
Can Black castle?
Is it a good idea?

3



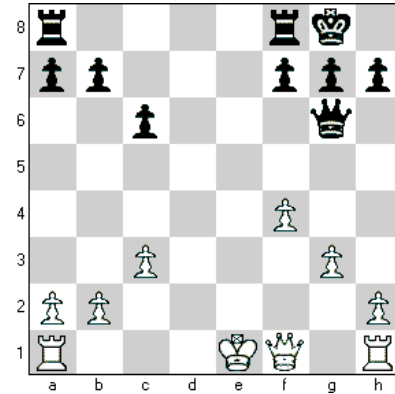
Can Black castle?
Is it a good idea?

4



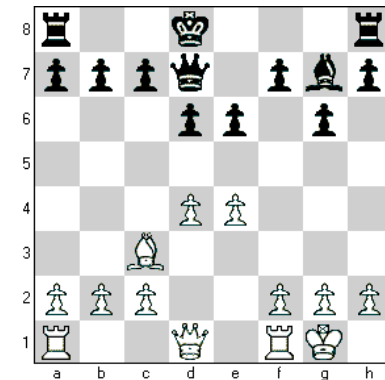
Can White castle?
Is it a good idea?

5



Can White castle?

6



Can Black castle?