

our favorite openings in real time.

For example, American GM Christopher Yoo is fearsome with the Evans Gambit, and it's interesting to study his opponents' reactions. Here, he gives up two minor pieces for a rook, but shows why it is the exception to the rule!

How would you respond to White's last move, **9. Nxf7**, if you were playing Black here? Check the **solution** below.

All of today's exercises come from

games played by top grandmasters on *Chess.com* in the past five years.



KEEPING UP WITH THE EVANS

With free databases like The Week In Chess (TWIC) updated weekly, we can see if any of our favorite players have done anything interesting in

1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. WHITE TO PLAY

4. WHITE TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 17. Rxe6 White wins the queen off his world-class opponent. **17. ... fxe6 18. Nd7+** (Yoo – Radjabov, Chess.com, 2023) **2) 12. Nxf7 Kxf7 13. Bh6+!! Kxh6 14. Qxf6+ Kh5 15. Be2** mate (Zhigalko – Batsiashvili, Chess.com, 2021) **3)** Black missed an unusual motif: **11. Bxc5 Qxc5 12. Bxf7+ Kf8** Other moves lose the knight. **13. Bxg8 Rxg8 14. Ng5!** Preparing to deflect Black's king from the rook! **14. ... Qe7 15. Nxf7+**

Ke8 16. Qxg8+ winning. (Golubev – Mucobega, Chess.com, 2018) **4) 26. Ne7! Rf6** Defending the g6-square, but with geometric danger. **27. Nxf5 g6 28. Be5!** (Yoo – Vokhidov, Chess.com, 2023) **5) 17. Nd5!** Stunning in its simplicity: Black can't castle because of 17. ... 0-0 18. Bxc6 with the e7-bishop hanging. **17. ... Nf5 18. Nf6+! gxf6 19. exf6** wins, as Black's king is trapped. (Jobava – Pajeken, Chess.com, 2021) **6) 24.**

Rf3!! The only winning move. **24. ... Rxa2 25. Rd1 Qa4 26. Rg3+** Only now, with the queen dislodged. **26. ... Kh8 27. Nxf7+** forcing mate (Zhigalko – Lysyj, Chess.com, 2021) **Bonus)** Only **9. ... Qe7!** holds. White has no discoveries, and Black can play ... d7-d5. After **9. ... Rxf7?? 10. Bxf7+ Kxf7 11. e5!**, White was able to quickly push f2-f4-f5 and attack, even after parting with two developed minor pieces. (Yoo – Ambartsumova, Chess.com, 2022)