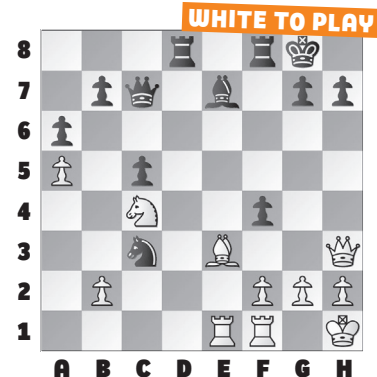# TACTICS TUESDAY
CHESS LIFE Kids ONLINE

KEEP IT SIMPLE, SILLY!

This week's positions come from the Team Chess battle on *Chess.com*. Most games came down to **simplicity**: the side who traded off attackers won, and the side who added in extra checks or captures lost. The positions were tricky, but the principles were not!

In our **example**, Black just took on c3 with the knight, adding to the complexity. But in Svidler/Gustafsson – Naroditsky/Hess, White **23. Qe6+ Kh8 24. Bc1!** when the knight and bishop are both under attack, and **24. … Nd5** loses to the pretty **25. Nb6!!** when Black is unable to save both knight and bishop, since **25. … Nxb6 26. axb6** comes with tempo on Black's queen.

WHITE TO PLAY

 # 1. WHITE TO PLAY

 # 2. BLACK TO PLAY

 # 3. WHITE TO PLAY

#4. BLACK TO PLAY

 # 5. BLACK TO PLAY

 # 6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) **39. Qxe4!** Taking on h6 only adds more complication: 39. Rxh6+?? Qxh6! 40. Qxe4 Rg8+ and White can resign. **39. … Rg8+! 40. Qg2!** White's last two moves, then, were aimed at clarifying the board! **40. … Rxg2+ 41. Kxg2 Qg5+ 42. Kh2 Qf4+ 43. Kg2** White holds. (Giri/Rensch – Caruana/Chirila, Chess.com, 2024)
2) **22. … fxe3!** Black took on c3 and could have walked into the trap we saw in our **example**. (Svidler/Gustafsson – Naroditsky/Hess) **3)** Black is threatening to mate down the h-file. **36. Qe4!** White attempts to simplify. Worse was 36. Qf4?? letting Black's queen in: 36. … Qh3 37. Qf3 when 37. … Nc3! would have been nice. **36. … Qh3 37. Qg2** with equality. (Nakamura/Rozman – Van Foreest/Hansen) **4)** **32. … f5!** White's threat is to either double rooks on the d-file or play Be4-c6 to exploit the pin. Trying to trade rooks and lure White's king onto the e-file.

33. Bb7 Rxe2+ 34. Kxe2 and Black can equalize if they can solve the next puzzle. **5)** **34. … Ke7!** Not 34. … Re8+?? 35. Kf2 Bc8 (but *35. … Be6 is more complicated, see next puzzle*) 36. Bc6! and Rd1-d8+ is coming. **35. Rxd7+ Rxd7 36. Nxd7 Kxd7 37. Bxa6 Nxa3** with equality. **6)** **36. Bxa6 Nxa3 37. Ra1!** *Intermezzo*! **37. … Nc2 38. Bxb5!** Again! **38. … Rb8 39. Nxe6+ Ke7 40. Ra2 Rxb5** Or 40. … Kxe6 41. Bc4+ wins. **41. Nc7!** (Puzzles 4-6 from Caruana/Chirila – So/Lee)

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