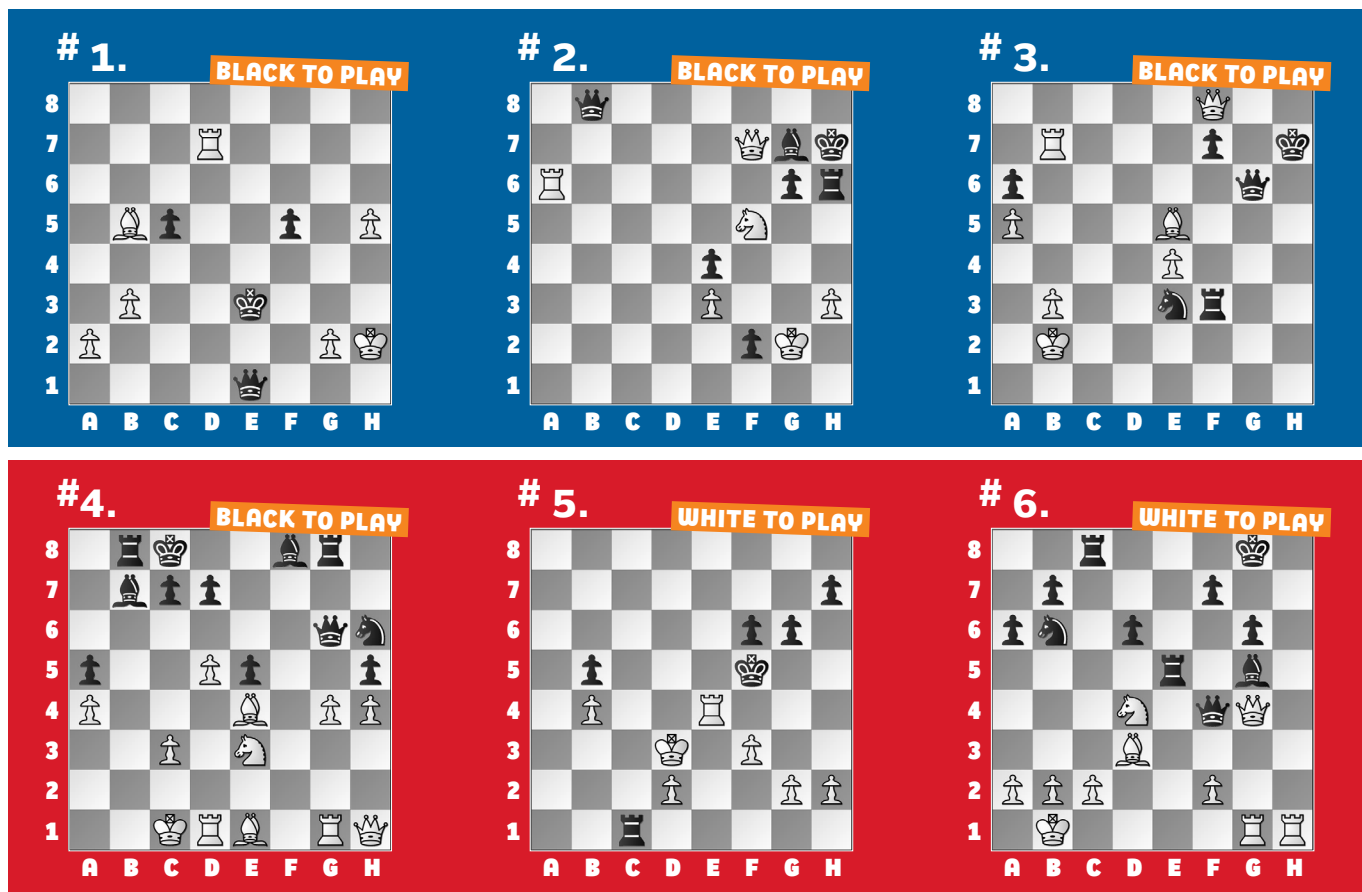
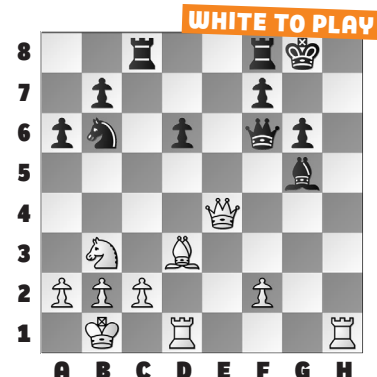


GRENKE FREESTYLE OPEN

Today's exercises come from the Grenke Open, featuring high-profile Freestyle Chess from top American competitors in puzzles 1-5.

In our **example**, White missed a clean win with **22. f4!** sacrificing a pawn to open a file. Instead, 22. Rdg1 Rfe8 23. Qg4 Re5 24. Nd4 Qf4?? set up a win using similar motifs, seen in **Puzzle 6**. After **22. ... Qxf4** **23. Qg2!** is the key motif, preparing Bd3xg6 ideas. **23. ... Kg7** After 23. ... Bf6 24. Bxg6 fxg6 25. Qxg6+ Bg7 26. Qh7+ Kf7 27. Rdf1, White wins the queen. **24. Rhg1!!** After 24. Rdg1 Rh8! 25. Rxh8 Rxh8 26. Qxg5 Qxg5 27. Rxg5 Rh1+ 28. Nc1 f5 Black

might have compensation. But now, the sac on g6 is still on the menu.



SOLUTIONS

1) 42. ... Kf2! White played 43. Bf1 and Black had a choice of wins. Any other move allowed a quick mate. Black can repeat with 42. ... Qh4+ 43. Kg1 Qe1+ 44. Kh2 but must find the right move here. (Note 44. Bf1 Qf2+ wins material.) (Navara – Dominguez, Grenke, 2025) **2) 56. ... f1=Q+** Black lures White's king to a weak diagonal. **57. Kxf1 Qb5+** Winning material and cementing Caruana's comeback.

(Assaubayeva – Caruana, Grenke, 2025) **3) 49. ... Qg2+!** Not 49. ... Rf2+? 50. Ka3 when there is no ... Ne3-c4+, as the b-pawn is no longer pinned. **50. Ka3** Or 50. Kc3 Ng4+ with the same idea. **50. ... Nc4+** **51. Kb4 Nxe5** Black defangs the mating attack and covers the f-pawn. (Bach – Aronian, Grenke, 2025) **4) 22. ... Qb6** Attacking the hanging knight. **23. Kd2** The point was 23. Bd2 Ba6 leaves White's king to be mated along the b-file, and

there is no Ne3-c4 anymore.; But the immediate 23. Nc4 Qb3 sees Black break through. **23. ... Nxe4** Black's attack is crushing. (Bremond – Kamsky, Grenke, 2025) **5) 42. h4** A mating net! **42. ... g5** **43. h5** Taking away the escape square! (Niemann – Kadric, Grenke, 2025) **6) 25. Qh3!** White threatens mate. **25. ... Kf8** Anticipating the fork with 25. ... Bf6 allows 26. Qh7+ Kf8 27. Bxg6 winning. **26. Nf3** White wins material! (Liang – Wong, Grenke, 2025)