Tactics Tuesday

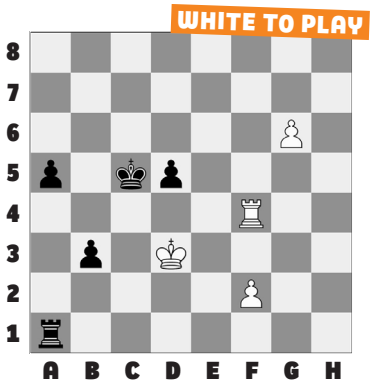
CHESSLIFE KIDS ONLINE

NOVEMBER 24, 2026 BY **JJ LANG**

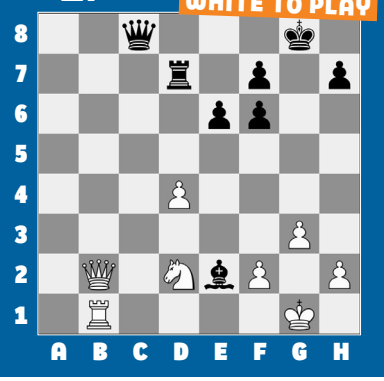
TOTAL CHESS TOUR PILOT

Today's exercises come from the **Total Chess Pilot**. Played at a fast classic time control, many games were decided by time trouble tactics.

But our **example** is a time trouble endgame! **49. Kc3!** Activity is key. **49. ... Rg1 50. Ra4 Kb5 51. Kxb3 Rxg6** If 51. ... Rb1+ 52. Ka2 pushes the rook back to g1, repeating. **52. Rd4 Rg5** Black is up a pawn, but the rook and king are both tied to defense. **53. Kb2 Rf5 54. f3** Black played 54. ... Re5 and White held on in Mishra – Nepomniachtchi. But **54. ... Kc5 55. Ra4** is instructive: **55. ... Kb5 56. Rd4** Black can never defend both pawns with the king, so he can never take the f3-pawn with the rook. Activity!



 # 1. WHITE TO PLAY



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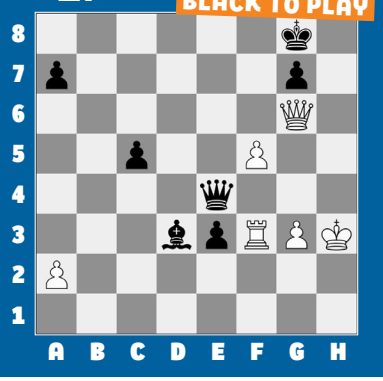

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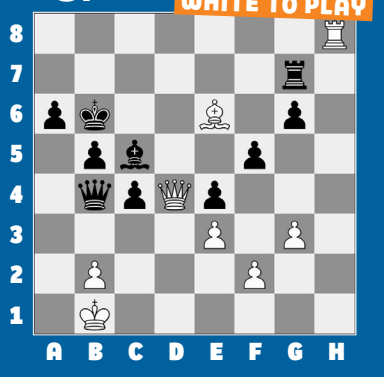
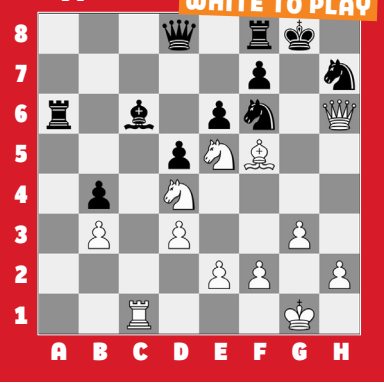
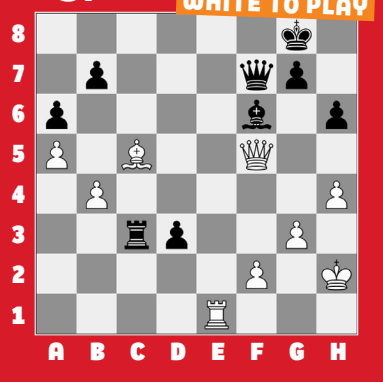


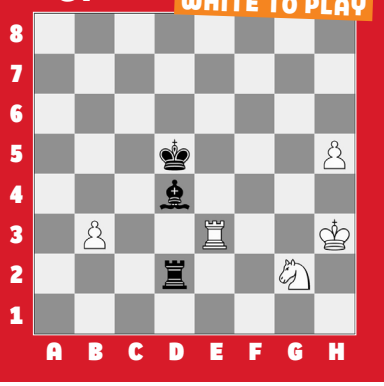
#4. WHITE TO PLAY



 # 5. WHITE TO PLAY



 # 6. WHITE TO PLAY



SOLUTIONS

1) 25. Ne4 White discovers an attack on the loose e2-bishop while threatening a fork on the f6-square. **25. ... Bd3 26. Nxf6+ Kg7 27. Nxd7** White went on to win. (Le – Artemiev, Budapest, 2026) **2) 53. ... Be2** The rook is pinned... to a square! Black threatens mate on h1, and **White resigned**. (So – Arjun) **3) 54. Rb8+!** White wins after this one careful move. Not 54. Qxg7 Qe1+! 55. Ka2 Qa5+ 56. Kb1 Qe1+ 57. Kc2 Qe2+ with a draw. **54. ... Ka5 55. Qxg7** Only now, when the queen can't give check on a5. (Nepomniachtchi – Mishra) **4) 26. Nxe6!** and **Black resigned** due to the mate threat on g7. If **26. ... fxe6**, White wins with **27. Bxe6+ Rf7 28. Bxf7+ Kh8 29. Ng6** mate. (Caruana – Praggnanandhaa) **5) 38. Qc8+ Kh7** Now White goes on the offensive. **39. Re8 Qd5?** Instead, 39. ... g6 was best, but 40. Rf8 Qg7 41. Qe8 d2 42. h5! wins with the threat of, e.g. 42. ... d1=Q 43. Rh8+! Qxh8 44. Qxg6 mate. **40. Rh8+ Kg6 41. Qg4+** and **Black resigned** due to **41. ... Kf7 42. Rf8** mate. (Martirosyan – Carlsen) **6) 63. Nf4+** A simplification tactic! **63. ... Kd6** If 63. ... Kc5 64. Rd3! forces the trade into a won minor piece endgame, as keeping the rook on allows Nf4-e6+, winning the bishop. Or 63. ... Kc6 64. Rd3 is similar. **64. Rd3 Rxd3+ 65. Nxd3** With pawns on both sides of the board, White went on to win. (Firouzja – van Foreest)

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