

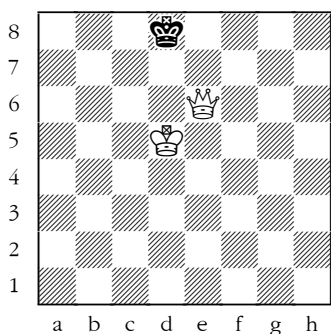
Basic Mate: King and Queen versus King

By Steven Craig Miller

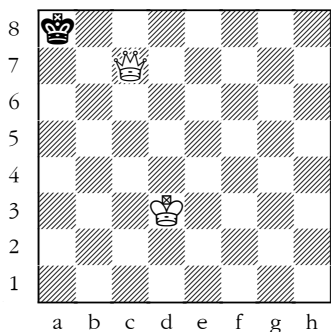
In a *king and queen versus king* situation, the most basic winning technique is based on using both the king and queen to push the opposing king to the edge of the board where he will be mated.

Compared to the *king and rook versus king* situation, one might suppose that mating with a queen would be easier. This is true, but there are also more stalemating possibilities which one needs to avoid.

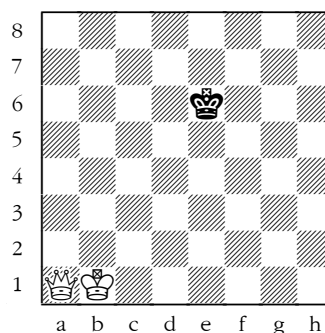
For example:



Both 1. ♔d6 and 1. ♕c6 are stalemate! So as the king approaches in order to pin the opposing king to the edge of the board, one should be careful not to allow stalemate. Even before the king approaches a stalemate is possible.



Nonetheless, the procedure is quite easy, just be careful not to stalemate the opponent's king. For example:



1. ♕a5 ♔d6
2. ♔c2 ♕e6
3. ♔d3 ♔d6
4. ♔e4 ♕e6

4. ... ♕c6 5. ♕e5 ♔d7 6. ♔b6 ♔c8 7. ♔a7 (and not 7. ♔d6?? stalemate) 7. ... ♔d8 8. ♔d6 ♕e8 9. ♕e7#.

5. ♔b6+ ♕e7
6. ♕e5 ♔f7
7. ♔f5 ♔e7
8. ♔c7+ ♔f8
9. ♔f6 ♔e8
10. ♕e7#

Students should get out a set and board and go over these variations until they are certain that they have mastered this basic mate.