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## 100 Chess Puzzles

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### Attacks on the e6-Square (After Castling)

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This terrific attacking set-up features a white queen on g3 and a white knight on f5. Among other possibilities, you can often win pieces or pawns with a knight check on the h6-square.

31a) White moves

D.Vinckier-Ann.Busch
French Women’s League 2011

The classic trap. White wins the black queen with a knight fork – in just three moves.

1 ëh6+ Black resigns. The knight can’t be taken as the white queen pins the g7-pawn against the black king. 1...êh8 allows 2 ëxf7+ êg8 3 ëxd8.

31b) White moves

Belikov-Kalegin, Alushta 2007

Here a Russian grandmaster cleverly wins a pawn. Can you work out how?

1 ëh6+ ãh8 2 ëxe5! (very neat – if 2...ëxe5, then 3 ëxf7+ ãg8 4 ëxe5, or worse 2...ãd6 3 ëxd6!) 2...gxh6 3 ëxf6+ and White is a pawn up with a great position.
32a) White moves
A.Kovaliov-Dmitrenko, Alushta 2003

Moving the bishop to h6 is a standard exchange-winning motif.

1 ëh6 g6

What else can Black do? Mate in one with ëxg7 was threatened. 2 ëxf8 White goes rook for bishop ahead, whichever way Black recaptures on f8.

32b) White moves
W.Salamon-A.Jirovec
Austrian League 2007/8

A complex example. Can you see how to attack Black’s ‘Sicilian’ formation?

1 f5! exf5 (if 1...dxe5, then 2 f6! ëxf6 3 ëxf6 or 1...ëh8 2 fxe6 dxe5 3 ëxf7) 2 ëh6 g6 3 ëxf8 White’s aggressive kingside play has won rook for bishop.

We have already learnt about the phrase ‘winning the exchange’ in Puzzle 27. In this standard theme, White wins a rook (worth five pawns) for a bishop (worth three pawns) – a profitable trade.
This double-pin motif is a superb weapon to have in your arsenal of tricks. The pattern can arise in quite a number of different opening variations too.

33a) White moves

Strenzke-W.Klotzki, Bargteheide 1989

Two points to note: the black queen is *undefended* and the black g6-pawn is *pinned*.

1 ñh5+! Black resigns. White’s check wins the black knight on f6, as the black king must retreat. Instead 1...ñxh5 loses the black queen to 2 ñxd8.

33b) Black moves

Man.Pohl-F.Mietner, Füssen 1993

White has just played 1 h3, threatening the black queen. Why was this a bad idea?

1...ñh4+! 2 ñf1 (the white queen on e2 is undefended, meaning Black wins after 2 ñxh4 ñxe2) 2...ñxf3 Black wins a knight since 3 gxh4 ñh1 is mate.
ANOTHER USEFUL
\(\textit{\textbf{h5+ TRICK}}\)

In this theme the white queen is on the \textit{e5-square} – where it \textit{pins} the black knight. So after White plays \(\textit{\textbf{h5+}},\) Black must capture with his pawn. This exposes the black king to a queen check on the \textit{g5-square}.

34a) White moves

S.Darr-Womacka, Germany (teams) 2007/8

Black’s knight is pinned against his king. This enables White to ‘swap’ knights in style.

1 \(\textit{\textbf{h5+}}\) gxh5 2 \(\textit{\textbf{g5+}}\) \(\textit{\textbf{f8}}\) 3 \(\textit{\textbf{xf6}}\)

White’s smart little sequence has left Black’s kingside pawns a wreck. Shortly White will capture the h5-pawn for free.

34b) White moves

Belikov-Lutsko, Voronezh 1997

How did White gain a huge attack – even with his rook on g5 threatened?

1 \(\textit{\textbf{f4!}}\) (1 \(\textit{\textbf{g3!}}\) is based on the same idea) 1...hxg5 2 \(\textit{\textbf{h5+}}\) \(\textit{\textbf{f8}}\) 3 \(\textit{\textbf{xf6}}\)

White’s smart little sequence has left Black’s kingside pawns a wreck. Shortly White will capture the h5-pawn for free.