

Check, Checkmate, or Stalemate “Beginner” Help Guide

Check: The King is in “Check” when one or more of the opponent’s pieces attack the square it occupies.

Checkmate: A player’s King is “Checkmated” when the square it occupies is attacked by one or more of the opponent’s pieces and the player has no legal move that escapes that attack.

Stalemate: When the player whose turn it is has no legal move and is not in Check. This is a draw (tie).

In all of the Diagrams for this homework you must figure out if it is Check, Checkmate, or Stalemate.

Diagram 1: White to move. The White King is in Check by the Bishop on b4 and the Rook on f8 is controlling the entire F file. So the White King can move to the two White squares that surround him. Since the King can move out of the way its not stalemate or checkmate.

Diagram 2: White to move. When you look at this diagram you can see that the Black Rook is attacking all of the squares on the g file and the Queen is attacking all of the squares on the 2nd rank. The Black Knight is attacking the e1 square. So the White King is surrounded and cannot move anywhere. But is not in check at this point.

Diagram 3: Black to move. The White Queen on g7 is attacking the Black King. The Bishop on b2 is protecting the Queen. So at this point the Black King cannot move out of Check, cannot capture the attacking Queen, and cannot block the attacking Queen.

Diagram 4: Black to move. The Black King cannot legally move himself into Check. So if you look at the board you will notice that the Black King is not in Check at this time but has no legal move.

Diagram 5: Black to move. The Black King is under attack from the White Queen on g7. The Bishop on b2 is also protecting the Queen. So the Black King is in Check and cannot move out of the way or capture the attacking piece.

Diagram 6: Black to move. The White Queen is attacking the Black King in this diagram and has him in Check. You can get out of check by moving your King, capturing the attacking piece, or you can block the attacking piece. Since you cannot move out of the way and you cannot capture the White Queen. There is only one option you have to get out of Check. But keep in mind that you can get out of Check.