

The Skewer “Beginner” Help Guide

Skewer: A tactic where an enemy piece is attacked and forced to move, exposing another enemy piece behind it to capture. Skewers can only be performed on ranks, files, and diagonals. Rooks, Bishops, and Queens are the only pieces that can perform the Skewer.

Diagram 1: White to move. In the first problem you will be able to win the Black Queen by moving one of your major pieces over to Skewer the Black King to the Queen. The King will be forced to move and you will win the Queen.

Diagram 2: Black to move. You are going to start this problem off with a Queen Check. The White King will be forced to move and you will win yourself a free Knight.

Diagram 3: White to move. You can tell that if you use your Bishop to put the Black King into Check he will be forced to move. When he moves you will be able to capture the Queen that is sitting on h8. Black will then capture your Bishop but in the process you will have traded 3 points for 9 points. That is a bad trade for Black but a good trade for you.

Diagram 4: Black to move. You want to use your Bishop to Skewer one of Whites major pieces to one of his minor pieces. When you move your Bishop over to do this White will move his major piece out of the way and you will win the minor piece.

Diagram 5: White to move. You will be able to stop the Black Pawn from reaching the Queening Square by simply creating a Skewer between it and the Black King. Move your major piece down and put the King into Check. The King will be forced to move out of the way and you will win the Pawn and the game.

Diagram 6: White to move. You will want to promote your Pawn to become a Queen, but you still will not be able to win the game. You will notice that when your Pawn becomes a Queen your King is blocking the diagonal line to the Black Pawn. When it is Black's turn to move he will also promote his Pawn to a Queen. This is different than your move because when Black gets a new Queen it will create a Skewer between the White King and Queen. The King will be forced to move out of the way and Black will win your Queen.