FREE WORKBOOK · BEGINNER · UP TO 1000

Blindfold Practice for Beginners

Strong players can see the board in their head. That skill is trained, not born, and it starts with knowing every square by name and colour. This workbook takes you from square colours to your first blindfold checkmates, all without looking at a board.

How to practise

- Read the question once, out loud if you like. Then look away from the page and picture the board.
- Do not use a board or an app while you solve. Write your answer first, then check it on a board.
- Answers are at the back. Cover them while you work.
- Little and often works best: 10 to 15 minutes a day beats one long session a week.

A. Light or dark?

Is the square light or dark? Tip: a1 is dark, and the colours change every time you move one square sideways or up.

1	a4 _____	2	c8 _____
3	f8 _____	4	c5 _____
5	d8 _____	6	g3 _____
7	f4 _____	8	d1 _____
9	c6 _____	10	a5 _____
11	f2 _____	12	g5 _____
13	g2 _____	14	c3 _____
15	h4 _____	16	e6 _____
17	f7 _____	18	f3 _____
19	e4 _____	20	e1 _____

B. Same colour?

Are the two squares the same colour? Answer yes or no.

21	a5 and a4 _____	22	e3 and d2 _____
23	a8 and g6 _____	24	a4 and e8 _____
25	b6 and g4 _____	26	d7 and g7 _____
27	c4 and a2 _____	28	h7 and d8 _____
29	g5 and d4 _____	30	g2 and c6 _____

C. Knight jumps

A knight stands alone on the square. Name every square it can jump to. Corner and edge squares have fewer.

31 Knight on a1
Answer: _____

32 Knight on d4
Answer: _____

33 Knight on h8
Answer: _____

34 Knight on b1
Answer: _____

35 Knight on g1
Answer: _____

36 Knight on e5
Answer: _____

37 Knight on h4
Answer: _____

38 Knight on c7
Answer: _____

39 Knight on f3
Answer: _____

40 Knight on a8
Answer: _____

D. Follow the opening

Play these moves in your head from the starting position. Then answer the questions without looking back at the moves.

Italian Game: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5

41 What is on c5?
Answer: _____

42 What is on g1?
Answer: _____

Ruy Lopez: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6

43 What is on c6?
Answer: _____

44 What is on e7?
Answer: _____

Queen's Gambit: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6

45 What is on d4?
Answer: _____

46 What is on e7?
Answer: _____

Scotch Game: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4

47 What is on b8?
Answer: _____

48 What is on e4?
Answer: _____

Sicilian Defence: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4

49 What is on d4?
Answer: _____

50 What is on e2?
Answer: _____

Caro-Kann Defence: 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4

51 What is on e4?
Answer: _____

52 What is on d2?
Answer: _____

E. Blindfold mate in one

Picture the pieces, then find the one move that gives checkmate.

53 **White:** Kf4, Qb7
Black: Kh3
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

54 **White:** Kf7, Rc3
Black: Kh7
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

55 **White:** Kc8, Rb4
Black: Ka8
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

56 **White:** Kf6, Qb1, Rg5
Black: Kh8
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

57 **White:** Kc4, Qc2
Black: Ka3, Rd1
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

58 **White:** Kf7, Qa6
Black: Kh8
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

59 **White:** Kb3, Rd4
Black: Ka1
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

60 **White:** Kc6, Qe7
Black: Ka8
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

61 **White:** Ka6, Re1, pawn g5
Black: Ka8
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

62 **White:** Kf7, Qa5, Na1
Black: Kh7
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

63 **White:** Kc6, Rh6, Bf2
Black: Kc8
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

64 **White:** Kc1, Qg8
Black: Ka1
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

Your practice log

Do one section a day. Write your score, then do the same section again a week later and see how much faster it feels.

Date	Section	Score	Time taken	What felt hard

Next: when you can do every section in under five minutes, move on to the Intermediate workbook, and try the Easy drills on chessdepth.in/blindfold/.

Answers

Check each answer on a real board after you have written yours. If you got one wrong, set up the position and play it through slowly, then try it again blindfold the next day.

A. Light or dark?

1 light
2 light
3 dark
4 dark
5 dark
6 dark
7 dark
8 light
9 light
10 dark
11 dark
12 dark
13 light
14 dark
15 dark
16 light
17 light
18 light
19 light
20 dark

B. Same colour?

21 no (a5 is dark, a4 is light)
22 yes, both dark
23 yes, both light
24 yes, both light
25 no (b6 is dark, g4 is light)
26 no (d7 is light, g7 is dark)
27 yes, both light
28 no (h7 is light, d8 is dark)
29 yes, both dark
30 yes, both light

C. Knight jumps

31 2 squares: b3, c2
32 8 squares: b3, b5, c2, c6, e2, e6, f3, f5
33 2 squares: f7, g6
34 3 squares: a3, c3, d2
35 3 squares: e2, f3, h3
36 8 squares: c4, c6, d3, d7, f3, f7, g4, g6
37 4 squares: f3, f5, g2, g6
38 6 squares: a6, a8, b5, d5, e6, e8
39 8 squares: d2, d4, e1, e5, g1, g5, h2, h4

40 2 squares: b6, c7

D. Follow the opening

41 A black bishop
42 Empty
43 A black knight
44 Empty
45 A white pawn
46 Empty
47 Empty
48 A white pawn
49 A white knight
50 Empty
51 A white knight
52 Empty

E. Blindfold mate in one

53 1.Qh1# (the only move that mates)
54 1.Rh3# (the only move that mates)
55 1.Ra4# (the only move that mates)
56 1.Qh1# (the only move that mates)
57 1.Qb3# (the only move that mates)
58 1.Qh6# (the only move that mates)
59 1.Rd1# (the only move that mates)
60 1.Qb7# (the only move that mates)
61 1.Re8# (the only move that mates)
62 1.Qh5# (the only move that mates)
63 1.Rh8# (the only move that mates)
64 1.Qa8# (the only move that mates)