FREE WORKBOOK · INTERMEDIATE · 1000 TO 1500

Blindfold Practice: Intermediate

Now we move pieces in your head over several moves. You will trace diagonals, plan knight routes, follow longer opening lines and solve two-move mates, all from the written position alone.

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. Bishop diagonals

A bishop stands alone on an empty board. How many squares can it reach in one move? Bishops in the centre see more.

1	Bishop on d4 _____	2	Bishop on a1 _____
3	Bishop on c1 _____	4	Bishop on f5 _____
5	Bishop on h3 _____	6	Bishop on b7 _____
7	Bishop on e6 _____	8	Bishop on g2 _____

B. One bishop move?

Can a bishop go from the first square to the second in one move on an empty board? Answer yes or no.

9	c1 to h6 _____	10	b2 to g8 _____
11	a3 to f8 _____	12	d1 to h5 _____
13	e4 to b7 _____	14	g7 to a1 _____
15	c4 to f1 _____	16	h2 to b8 _____
17	f3 to c5 _____	18	e2 to a6 _____

C. Knight routes

What is the fewest number of moves a knight needs to go from the first square to the second? Name one route.

19	b1 to c5 Answer: _____	20	g1 to g3 Answer: _____
21	a1 to b2 Answer: _____	22	e4 to e5 Answer: _____
23	d4 to h8 Answer: _____	24	c3 to f7 Answer: _____
25	h1 to a8 Answer: _____	26	g8 to d2 Answer: _____

27 a1 to h8
Answer: _____

28 e2 to e7
Answer: _____

D. Follow the opening

Play the moves in your head from the starting position, then answer without looking back.

Italian Game, Giuoco Piano: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.O-O O-O

29 What is on c3?
Answer: _____

30 What is on e8?
Answer: _____

London System: 1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.Bg3 O-O 8.Bd3

31 What is on e7?
Answer: _____

32 What is on d3?
Answer: _____

French Defence, Winawer: 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7

33 What is on a3?
Answer: _____

34 What is on e2?
Answer: _____

Scotch Game: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4

35 What is on c2?
Answer: _____

36 What is on e2?
Answer: _____

Queen's Gambit Declined: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 O-O 6.Nf3 Nbd7

37 What is on e8?
Answer: _____

38 What is on e3?
Answer: _____

Caro-Kann, Classical: 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7

39 What is on g1?
Answer: _____

40 What is on g6?
Answer: _____

E. Blindfold mate in one

More pieces this time. Find the one mating move.

41 **White:** Kf6, Rc2, Be3, pawn h2
Black: Kg8, Rh7
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

42 **White:** Kh7, Qf7, pawn c3
Black: Ka5, Rb5, pawn d4
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

43 **White:** Kc7, Qc3, Be1, Nc6, pawn e6
Black: Ke8, Bd1
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

44 **White:** Kc6, Qc7, pawns c4 e4
Black: Ka8, Be3
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

45 **White:** Kg3, Qc6
Black: Kh1, Be7, pawns f3 b6
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

46 **White:** Kh6, Qe5, Ng7
Black: Kg8, Bf2, Bd3, pawns e2 h4
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

47 **White:** Kc5, Qc6, Ne7
Black: Kh8, Ra2
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

48 **White:** Ke2, Rd7, Bf7, pawn h7
Black: Kf8, Qa2, pawn d2
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

49 **White:** Kb8, Qe8
Black: Ka6, pawns a2 a4 h4 b6
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

50 **White:** Kb6, Rc6, pawn d3
Black: Ka8, Ba2, Nf8
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

51 **White:** Kf8, Rc5, Bf4, Na6
Black: Kh8, Qe3
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

52 **White:** Kg6, Rh2, Nc1, pawn g7
Black: Kg8
White to play and mate in 1.
Answer: _____

F. Blindfold mate in two

White plays a move, Black replies, and White mates. Write the full line.

53 **White:** Kc5, Rd6, Ba6, Na4
Black: Ka8, pawn g6
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

54 **White:** Ke3, Rg7, Nc6, Nf8
Black: Kh5
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

55 **White:** Kd3, Re5, Nb4, pawn f7
Black: Ka4
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

56 **White:** Kb4, Rc5, pawns a6 b7
Black: Kf8, Nd1
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

57 **White:** Kg1, Qf7, Na1, Ne3
Black: Kb2
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

58 **White:** Kc2, Rh6, Nd4, pawn b4
Black: Ka4
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

59 **White:** Kd4, Qb8, Nh1, pawn g5
Black: Ka1, pawn d6
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

60 **White:** Kc7, Qd1, Rd6, Bd3
Black: Ke7, Bf3
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

61 **White:** Kd6, Re3
Black: Ka8, Nc7, pawn h7
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

62 **White:** Ke1, Qa5, pawns c3 a6
Black: Ka7
White to play and mate in 2.
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: try the Medium drills and a full blindfold game against the computer on chessdepth.in/blindfold/, then move on to the Advanced workbook.

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. Bishop diagonals

1 13 squares
2 7 squares
3 7 squares
4 11 squares
5 7 squares
6 9 squares
7 11 squares
8 9 squares

B. One bishop move?

9 yes
10 no (different colours)
11 yes
12 yes
13 yes
14 yes
15 yes
16 yes
17 no (different colours)
18 yes

C. Knight routes

19 3 moves: b1 – d2 – b3 – c5
20 2 moves: g1 – e2 – g3
21 4 moves: a1 – c2 – e1 – d3 – b2
22 3 moves: e4 – d2 – f3 – e5
23 4 moves: d4 – e2 – f4 – g6 – h8
24 3 moves: c3 – e4 – g5 – f7
25 6 moves: h1 – f2 – d1 – b2 – a4 – b6 – a8
26 3 moves: g8 – f6 – e4 – d2
27 6 moves: a1 – c2 – e1 – g2 – f4 – g6 – h8
28 3 moves: e2 – c3 – d5 – e7

D. Follow the opening

29 A white pawn
30 Empty
31 Empty
32 A white bishop
33 A white pawn
34 Empty
35 Empty
36 A white queen
37 Empty
38 A white pawn

39 Empty

40 A black bishop

E. Blindfold mate in one

41 1.Rc8# (the only move that mates)

42 1.Qa7# (the only move that mates)

43 1.Qh8# (the only move that mates)

44 1.Qb7# (the only move that mates)

45 1.Qc1# (the only move that mates)

46 1.Qe8# (the only move that mates)

47 1.Qh6# (the only move that mates)

48 1.h8=Q# (the only move that mates)

49 1.Qxa4# (the only move that mates)

50 1.Rc8# (the only move that mates)

51 1.Rh5# (the only move that mates)

52 1.Rh8# (the only move that mates)

F. Blindfold mate in two

53 1.Kb6 g5 2.Rd8#

54 1.Kf4 Kh6 2.Rh7#

55 1.Kc3 Ka3 2.Ra5#

56 1.Rc7 Ke8 2.b8=Q#

57 1.Qb3+ Kxa1 2.Nc2#

58 1.Kc3 Ka3 2.Ra6#

59 1.Kc3 Ka2 2.Qb2#

60 1.Qxf3 Ke8 2.Re6#

61 1.Kxc7 h6 2.Ra3#

62 1.Qb5 Ka8 2.Qb7#