

V26

Gr. 2

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Taktik

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### Solutions to Skewer Exercises

1) Black's queen and bishop are temptingly lined up and White wins material by the *discovered attack* (see Chapter 5) 1 ♖h4. This makes decisive gains because if the queen moves, the b7-bishop is lost. Note that the knight must move to h4 as it is necessary to defend the g2-bishop.

2) This typical endgame tactic wins the enemy rook with a skewer: 1 ♖a8! (threatening to promote) 1... ♖xh7 2 ♖a7+ and 3 ♖xh7.

3) White wins with a sacrifice followed by a diagonal skewer: 1 ♖xe6+! ♔xe6 2 ♙g4+ followed by 3 ♙xc8.

4) White can spring a typical opening trap: 1 ♖xd6! ♗xd6 (or else White remains a pawn ahead) 2 ♙f4 and the b8-rook falls. It's important that the black queen cannot move so as to defend the rook.

5) A quick one-two knocks White out: 1... ♖xf3+! (1...exf3 is impossible as the pawn is pinned) 2 gxf3 ♗h2+ and Black wins the queen.

6) The ending of ♗+♔ vs ♗ is normally drawn, but here is one of the exceptions: 1 ♗f4+! (the knight sacrifice sets up a decisive skewer) 1... ♔xd5 2 ♗f3+. 1 ♗f6+? doesn't work as Black can ignore the sacrifice and play 1... ♔e4.

7) White has not yet castled and Black can exploit this by 1... ♙xb4! 2 ♗xb4 ♖a1+, winning rook and pawn for bishop.

8) At the moment 1 ♗h8+? is ineffective as Black can reply 1... ♔e6, but a small change in the position turns a harmless idea into a deadly one: 1 ♙d4! (drawing the black queen away from the king) 1... ♗xd4 2 ♗h8+ followed by 3 ♗xd4.

9) It looks like a draw, but the bad position of the black king allows White to set up a skewer: 1 g8 ♗a1 ♗ 2 ♗b8+ ♔a4 (other squares are no better) 3 ♗a7+ (or 3 ♗a8+) and 4 ♗xa1.

10) White wins despite Black's material advantage: 1 e8 ♗+! ♔xe8 2 ♖h8+ ♔f7 3 ♖h7+ and 4 ♖xa7, with an extra rook.

11) Two skewers in a row seal Black's fate: 1 ♖c1 (Black's queen must move so as to defend the rook on c8, which leaves just one possibility) 1... ♗f5 and now the second skewer 2 ♙g4 finishes Black off.

12) A preliminary sacrifice opens the h-file and leads to a lethal skewer: 1 ♖xg6! hxg6 2 ♖h8+ ♔f7 3 ♖h7+ and Black loses his queen.