When all you have left is a pawn you need to know how to win the game! This lesson covers what you need to know to win if you find yourself in this position. Board 1 shows the starting postion. White to move. Before you start this lesson try and queen the white pawn from this position: you will see how hard it is if you don't know how to do it.



First, you must know what opposition is. See board 9: if white moved to d6 white has opposition: if black moved to d8 black would have opposition. Opposition is crucial to keeping control of the board. If you move into opposition your opponent must move to the side or backwards. If black just moved to c5 on board 5 what would white do to get it back? Pawn to d4!

To get opposition white must do two things: get his king in front of his pawn and then get far enough ahead of his pawn to be able to move the pawn and still have opposition. White's first move is King to e2. Black moves to e7: board 2. White is still trying to get his king in front of his pawn: on board 3 he plays King to d3. Black moves to d6. White gets opposition with his move on board 4 with King to d4! Black must move to the side or backwards: I chose King to c6. Eventually white has to get his King off the d file (files are vertical rows: the d file is comprised of the squares d1-d8) so he can move his pawn to d8 and turn it into a Queen. So moving off the d file is ok so long as you maintain control.







On board 5 white played King to e5 and black got opposition with King to c5. How does white get opposition back? With a pawn move! Board 6 shows pawn to d5: black must retreat to c6. On board 7 white advanced his King to e6: black is trying desperately to guard against the pawn running up the d file and queening so he plays King to c7. Now white has a different objective. He could play King to e7 for opposition but a sideways move for black lets the black King move to c6: towards our pawn. If white loses the pawn the game is a draw. We also don't want draw by repetition: this is when the board looks the same as it did on two previous positions. If we play King to e6-e7-e6-e7 while black is playing King to c6-c7-c6-c7 we set up draw by repetition. Don't!! White wants to run the pawn p the d file. So we play pawn to d5!! This attacks c6, keeping black off this square. If black doesn't play King d8 we play

HARD WORK ALWAYS PAYS OFF!

King to e7 and ensure success for our pawn: we control the path to our queen at d8! So we force black's king to d8 on board 8. Now I hope this is simple! What does white play now? We want black's King to move to the side. Do we play pawn to d6? This will give black the draw he wants! Our move is King to d6; opposition!! See board 9! This is game over for black! Now black must move to either side: he played to



C8 on board 10: we played King to e7 so we could walk our pawn up to d8, all the while protected by the King. Black is desperate: on board 11 he played King to c7: we smacked him with pawn to d6! Black must move out of check, so he tries King to C8 hoping for a mistake on our part. We just keep pressing: pawn to d7 on board 12! He plays King to C7: we queen our pawn and should win the game!!



SUMMER CHESS CAMPS:

<u>Preliminarly</u> 9AM-noon July 7-11. <u>Finalized:</u> August 4-8; 9-12, 12-3 or both. \$100 for half day or \$200 all day. Register via email, text or phone. Both at Glenview Methodist Church, 727 Harlem. Once finalized I won't cancel!

Play in the Illinois State Championship! March 15-16, Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, 1800 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL. Register online <u>chessweekend.com</u> \$50 until Mar 13. Must first join USChess.org \$17. Fixed start times: K-1: Sat. 10, 12:30, 2, 3:30. Sun. 9, 10:30, 12:30. Grades 2-3: Sat. 10, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30 Sun. 9, 11, 1; Grades 4-5: Sat. 10, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45 Sun. 9, 11:30, 2. Look for me in reserved room "Avoca West"!

Play chess on the internet: freechess.org (if a windows system download "Babas"). Analyze your games to learn how to play better!! With Babas click edit then analyze. Earn 1 point each for games played against people or on the internet at home and each puzzle solved correctly!

Free Glenview Library tournament for trophies:

May 17: Grades 6-8 9:30-11, 3-5 11:15-12:45, K-2 1-2:30.

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