

Basic Checkmates

Chess

Forcing mate with minimum material, and how many moves each takes.

Against a lone king, with best defence. Two of these are draws — knowing which saves half points.

Material	Result	Moves
King + queen	Mate	≤ 10
King + rook	Mate	≤ 16
King + two rooks	Mate	≤ 8
King + two bishops	Mate	≤ 19
King + bishop + knight	Mate — hard	≤ 33
King + two knights	DRAW	cannot force
King + one minor piece	DRAW	insufficient

Queen mate: box the king smaller each move, keep a knight's distance, avoid stalemate. Check the whole board before every check.