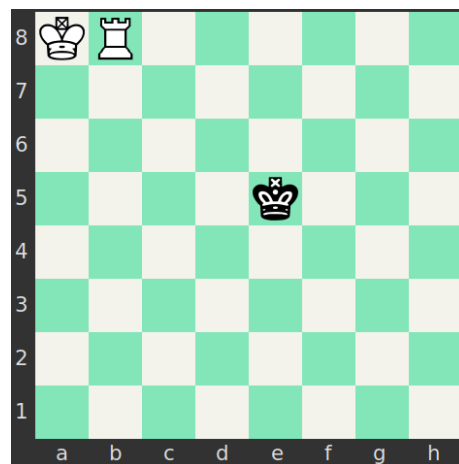


# King and Rook versus King

*White to move*

This is another fundamental chess ending. It often occurs as a result of rook and pawn versus rook endings where one side has sacrificed his rook for the last remaining pawn.

The key to this ending is the *tempo* move. A tempo move is a waiting move that doesn't change the position a lot but forces the defender to move his king to a less favorable position.



Unlike the king and queen versus king ending, here it's better to bring the king out first. The rook's best position is then determined by the position of the kings.

	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>
1.	Kb7	Kd5
2.	Kb6	Kd4
3.	Kc6	Ke5

Black plays to keep his king in the center.

4.	Rd8	...
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Cutting Black's king off on the file.

4.	...	Ke4
5.	Kc5	Ke5

Black wants to keep his king in the center but now the kings are opposed.

6.	Re8+	...
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The correct procedure is to check with the rook when the kings are opposed. Now Black's king is driven toward the h-file.

6.	...	Kf6!
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The defender wants to bother the enemy rook as much as possible.

7.	Kc6	Kf4
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7...Kf7 is met with 8. Re6! and now Black finds his king has few squares left.

8.	Kd5	Kf6!
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Continuing to bother the rook.

9. Re1! ...

An example of the *tempo* move. White gets his rook to safety. Now Black is out of options.

9. ... Kf5

Again if the king goes to f7 White can play 10. Re6! confining the king.

10. Rf1+ Kg4

The best defense is to head towards the opposing rook.

11. Ke4 Kg5

12. Rf2! ...

Another tempo move. Now if ...Kg4, Rg2+.

12. ... Kg6

13. Ke5 Kg7

14. Ke6 Kg6

15. Rg2+ ...

This forces the king to the h-file.

15. ... Kh5

16. Kf5 Kh4

17. Rg8 ...

Another tempo move.

17. ... Kh3

If ...Kh5, Rh8 mates.

18. Kf4 Kh2

19. Kf3 Kh1

20. Kf2 Kh2

21. Rh8#

Perhaps this ending could have been won in fewer moves but I want this pattern to be clear to you. Check with the rook when the kings are opposed and use tempo moves with the rook to force the opposing king in front of your own king.

You will need to practice this ending a lot to become proficient. It is important to know this ending as it does come up frequently. And it's better to use the same method every time even if it takes a few more moves.