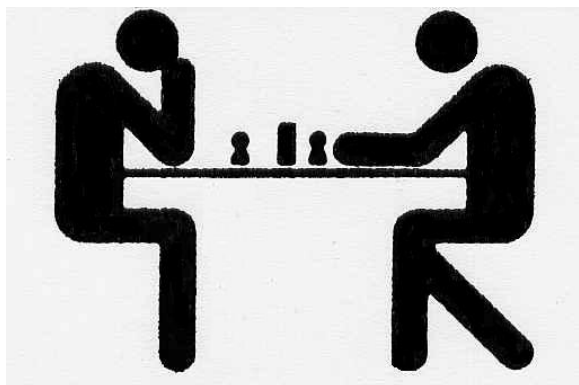


## Alonso Zapata:

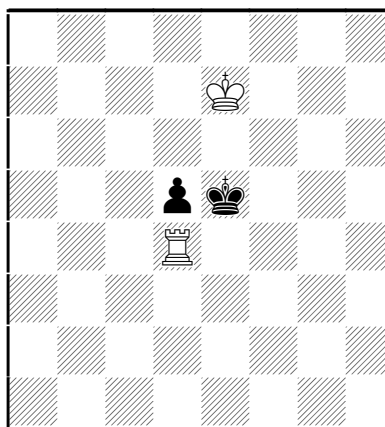
### Waiting moves and previous moves

"The threat is stronger than the execution".  
Aaron Nimzowitsch

Paradoxically, waiting moves do not mean to remain inactive or to do nothing. Actually, waiting moves is part of being an active player. This type of moves appears frequently in zugzwang and in prophylaxis themes. There are plenty of examples with a lot of practical applications. Waiting moves appear when one player allows his rival to play in order to let him to ruin his own position without affecting significantly ours. They occur frequently in endgames, when one of the players is trying to obtain the opposition and tries to "lose a tempo". For example, during the triangulation maneuver, the loss of a tempo by one player provokes the breakdown of his opponent's defense. The next diagram shows a position that has always impressed me deeply, for its simplicity and its instructive value. It comes from a study composed by Richard Reti (1922), the famous master of the past century. White plays and wins. I have tested my students with this exercise, and many of them cannot find the correct answer. In order to find it, it is important to have an idea of the plan.



## Reti, 1992

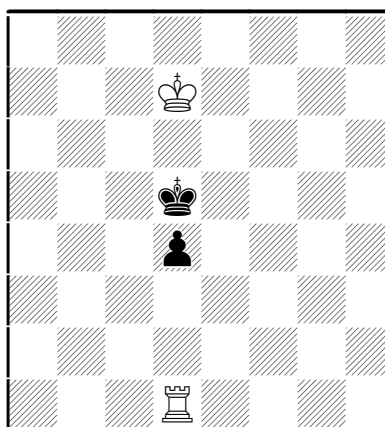


White to play.

### 1.Rd2!!

Curiously, 1.Rd3!! also works. Then, 1...d4 (1...Ke4 2.Rd1 d4 3.Kd6 d3 4.Kc5 Ke3 5.Kc4+-) 2.Rd1. But it is wrong to start with 1.Rd1?, because 1...d4 2.Kd7 Kd5!= 3.Kc7 Kc5!! and black does not allow the entrance of the white king. Or 4.Kb7 (White could try 4.Rc1 Kb4! (it is a blunder to play 4...Kd5?? because of 5.Kb6 d3 6.Kb5 Kd4 7.Kb4 d2 8.Rd1 Kd3 9.Kb3+-) 5.Kd6 d3=) 4...Kc4 5.Kc6 d3=.

**1...d4 2.Rd1!! Kd5 3.Kd7!**



Black to play.

This last move is the key to the solution of this problem, as it breaks the opposition of the black king. In this way, white can enter in black's position and attack his

pawn. 3.Kf6? does not work because of 3...Ke4=.

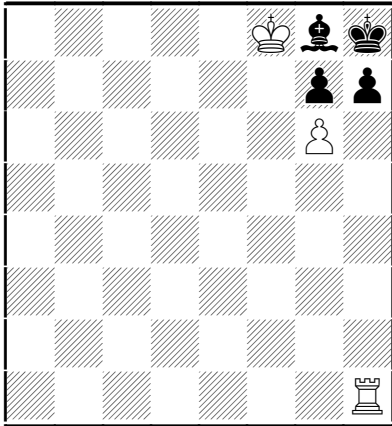
**3...Kc4**

After that, the white king is very fast!

**4.Ke6 d3 5.Ke5 Kc3 6.Ke4 d2 7.Ke3 1:0.**

### Paul Morphy - Study

The diagram corresponds to a instructive problem composed by Paul Morphy. An waiting move, decides the outcome!



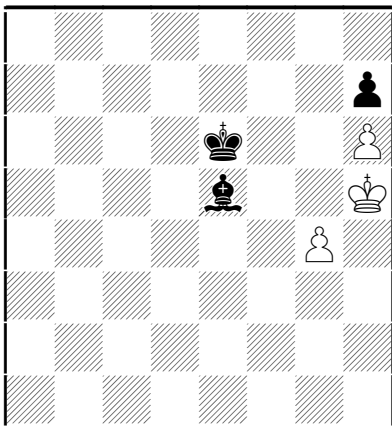
White to move. Mate in two.

**1.Rh6! gh6 (1...Bc4 2.Rh7#.) 2.g7# 1:0.**

### Asorge : Hübner

Kolin 1960

The waiting moves and domination motifs are used in this fantastic ending.



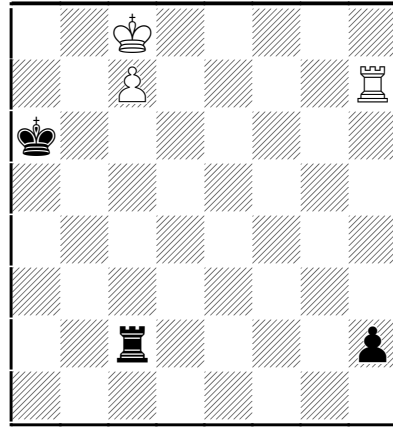
Black to move.

**1...Bg3!! 2.Kg5 Ke5 3.Kh5 Kf6 3...Kf4 4.g5 Kf5. 4.g5 Kf5 0:1.**

### Emanuel Lasker, 1890

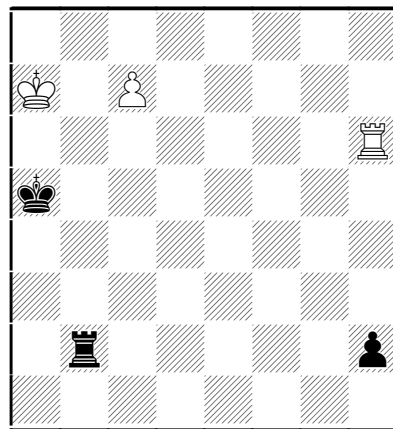
The famous composition of the Second Official World Chess Champion

Emmanuel Lasker, is a great exercise on waiting moves and gradual pressure. It is brilliant!



White to play.

**1.Kb8 Rb2 2.Ka8! Rc2 3.Rh6 Ka5 4.Kb7 Rb2 5.Ka7!**



Black to play.

**5...Rc2 6.Rh5 Ka4 7.Kb6**

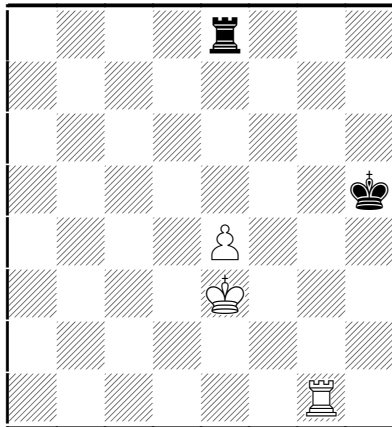
With the continuous threat of Rh2!

**7...Rb2 8.Ka6 Rc2 9.Rh4 Ka3 10.Kb6 Rb2 11.Ka5! Rc2 12.Rh3 Ka2 13.Rh2! 1:0.**



### A. Cherón, 1926

It is very enlightening the Cheron's method, where white several times "give up his turn" in order to win wonderfully. With a pawn in the fourth rank there are opportunities for the inferior side to obtain a draw. White's idea is to take advantage of the bad position of the black king, which is located at one side of the board. It is white's turn, but he would like to have the same position with black's turn. So...



White to play.

#### 1.Rg3!!

Notice that 1.Kd4?! does not work because of 1...Rd8 2.Kc5 Re8 3.Kd5 Rd8 4.Kc6 Re8 5.Re1 Kg5 6.Kd6 Ra8! and now the black rook goes to the wide side where it can keep checking the white king laterally: 7.e5 Ra6 8.Kd5 Ra5 9.Kd4 Ra7 10.e6 Kf6=. Similarly, 1.Kf4 is insufficient because of 1...Rf8 2.Ke5 Re8 3.Kf5 Rf8 4.Ke6 Re8 5.Kf6 Re4 6.Kf5 Rb4=.

#### 1...Kh4

1...Kh6 2.Kf4 Rf8 3.Ke5 Re8 4.Kf6! Rf8 5.Ke7, followed by e5+.

Moreover 1...Re7?? is bad since 2.Kd4 Rd7 3.Ke5 Re7 4.Kd5 Rd7 5.Ke6 and white wins once its pawn reaches the fifth rank.

#### 2.Rg2! Kh5 3.Rg1!

Note that now we have arrived to the initial position with the difference that it is black's turn.

#### 3...Ra8

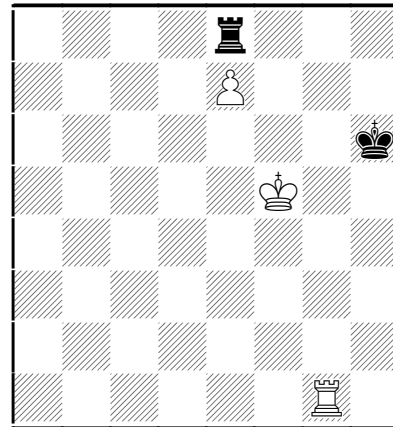
Black is trying to defend using the wide

side of the pawn. If 3...Kh4 4.e5! Re5 5.Kf4+ or 3...Kh6 4.Kd4 Rd8 5.Kc5 Re8 6.Kd5 Rd8 7.Ke6 Re8 8.Kf6+ Rf8+ 9.Ke7, followed by e5!

#### 4.e5 Ra4! 5.e6! Kh6

5...Ra6 6.Ke4 Re6 7.Kf5+.

#### 6.e7! Ra8 7.Kf4 Re8 8.Kf5!



8...Re7 9.Kf6+ and black has to move his king first to avoid the immediate mate. **1:0.**

### Anand : Topalov

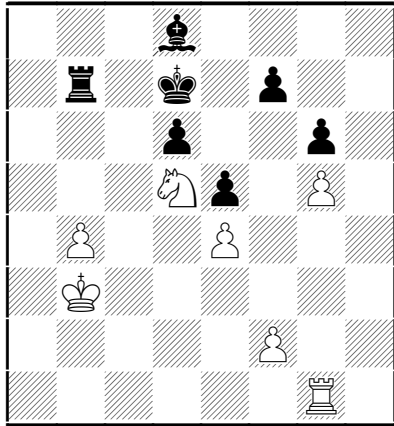
London 2015

The idea of the concept of waiting moves is to voluntarily yield a tempo to the opponent with an apparently useless move in order to keep your own position stable and forcing the enemy to show his intentions or to weaken his position.

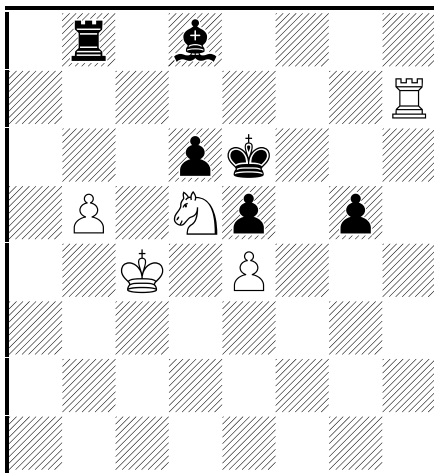
Waiting moves are deeply related to the zugzwang motif, where the side with the obligation to move loses. Games played at the highest level reveal many examples of waiting moves. The next game was one of the best of 2015, played between Vishy Anand and Veselin Topalov at the London Classic Tournament. In this game the waiting move motif is used several times until the end of the game.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cd4 4.Nd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 h5 8.Bg5 Be6 9.Bf6 Qf6 10.Nd5 Qd8 11.Qd3 g6 12.0-0-0 Nd7 13.Kb1 Rc8 14.Nec3 Rc5 15.Be2 b5 16.a3 Nb6 17.g4 hg4 18.Nb6 Qb6 19.hg4 Rh1 20.Rh1 Bg7 21.Qe3 Qb7 22.Rd1 Qc7 23.g5 Qc6 24.Rg1 Qd7

25.Qg3 Rc8 26.Bg4 Bg4 27.Qg4 Qg4  
 28.Rg4 Bf8 29.Nd5 Be7 30.c3 Rc6  
 31.Kc2 Kd7 32.Kb3 Bd8 33.a4 Rc5  
 34.ab5 Rb5 35.Ka2 a5 36.b4 ab4 37.cb4  
 Rb7 38.Kb3 Rb8 39.Rg1 Rb7 40.Rg3  
 Rb8 41.Rg1 Rb7

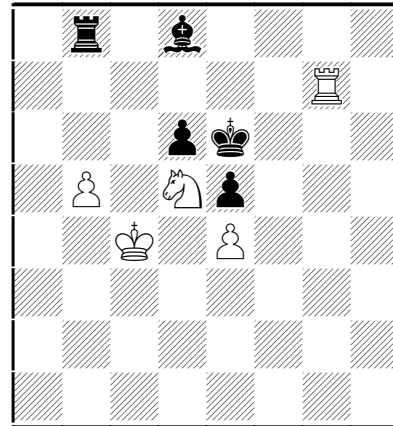


42.Ra1 Bg5 43.Kc4 Bd8 44.f3 f5 45.Rh1  
 fe4 46.fe4 g5 47.b5 Rb8 48.Rh7  
 After the hard strategic struggle, Vishy  
 reaches a positional advantage in spite of  
 having a pawn less, where its pieces  
 dominate the board and restrict the  
 movements of the enemy, and the security  
 of the black king is under question.  
 48...Ke6

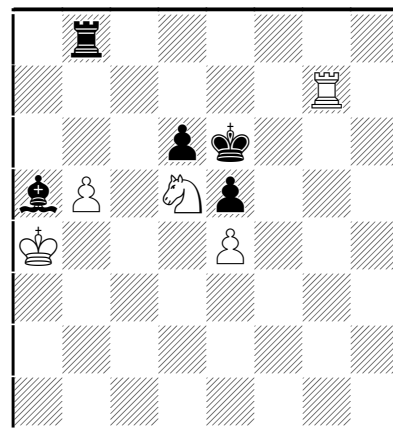


49.Kb4!  
 It is now necessary to play the waiting  
 move in order to recover the sacrificed  
 pawn. Black pieces cannot move  
 adequately, the rook and the bishop must

protect against the threats of the white  
 pawn to b6 and the mating net.  
 49...g4 50.Rg7 g3 51.Rg3 Rb7 52.Rg6  
 Kd7 53.Rg7 Kc8 54.Rg8 Kd7 55.Kc4  
 Rb8 56.Rg7 Ke6

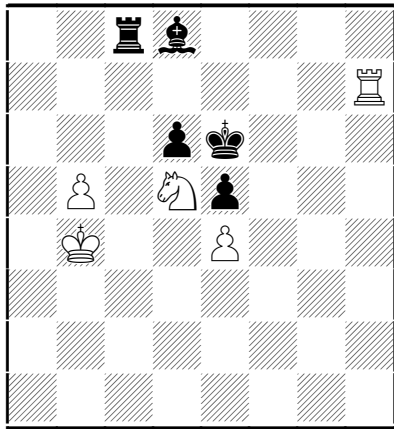


57.Kb4!  
 The same idea is repeated, but now without  
 the g pawn. It is wrong to play 57.b6? in  
 view of 57...Rb6! 58.Nb6 Bb6=.  
 57...Ba5? 58.Kc4?  
 There is no stalemate! The winning  
 method would have been 58.Ka5 Rb5  
 59.Ka4! (59.Kb5? = stalemate) 59...Ra5  
 60.Kb3 Ra3 61.Kc4 Ra4 62.Nb4+-.  
 On the other hand 58.Ka4!!



58...Bd8 59.Ra7!!+- Rc8 60.b6 Rc4  
 (60...Bh4 61.Rh7 Rc4 62.Ka3 Rc8 63.b7  
 Rb8 64.Ka4+-) 61.Ka3 Rc8 62.Rg7 Bh4  
 63.b7+- would also have won.  
 58...Bd8 59.Rg8 Rc8 60.Kd3  
 It wins also 60.Kb4! Ba5 61.Ka5 Rg8  
 62.b6+-.

**60...Rb8 61.Rh8 Kd7 62.Rh7 Ke6**  
**62...Kc8!?**  
**63.Kc4 Rc8 64.Kb4**



Following the same idea of the previous moves, which were related to the waiting move motif.

**64...Rc1**

Anand wanted to reach to the position previously analyzed after 64...Rb8 65.Ra7!+- . Once the pawn has reached a6, there is no return.

**65.b6+- Rb1**

65...Re1 66.b7 Re4 67.Kb5+-.

**66.Ka5 Bb6 67.Nb6 Ra1 68.Kb5 Rb1**

**69.Kc6 Rc1 70.Kb7 Rb1 71.Kc7 Rc1**

**72.Kd8 Re1 73.Rh4 Kf6 74.Rg4**

Last waiting move! **1:0.**

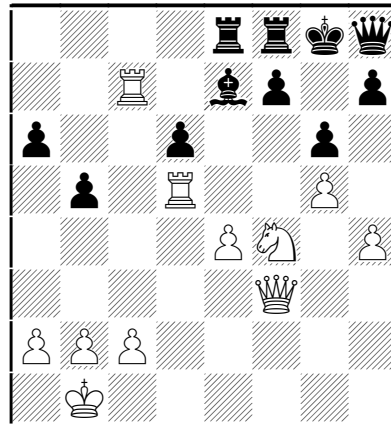
**Fischer : Bolbochan**

Stockholm 1962

**Prophylaxis:** is usually observed in middle game situations where some preventive moves are played before continuing with the designed plan, in order to bring more safety to your own king, to keep him out from a dangerous column or diagonal, or to give him some air if he is imprisoned by his own pawns on the first or eighth rank, to avoid common mating patterns.

Sometimes prophylactic moves are played to avoid further attacks on a weakened piece or to strengthen our own pawn chain. The next game was played by Bobby Fischer in 1962, before becoming the eleventh world chess champion in 1972. It is remarkable

the way he played a prophylactic move to provide safety to his king before launching the final assault against the enemy position.



Although white's position is already winning, Fischer's way to continue his attack is notable, with a subtle move before a demolishing attack.

**31.a3!!+-**

This is a powerful attacking move!

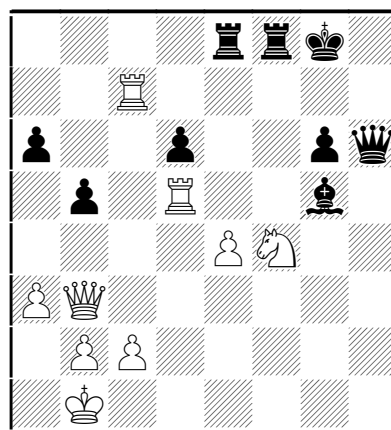
**31...h6**

31...f6 32.Qb3, followed by Rd6, winning.

**32.gh6 Qh6 33.h5! Bg5 34.hg6 fg6**

34...Bf4 35.gf7 Rf7 36.Rf7 Kf7 37.Rh5+-.

**35.Qb3!**



Observe the importance of the move 31. a3!! allowing the last queen move without the mating threat on the first rank.

**35...Rf4 36.Re5 Kf8 37.Re8**

If 37.Re8 Ke8 38.Qe6. **1:0.**