

Reading Exercise: Exhaustion of Moves

An exercise that helps you develop your attention to detail. It is designed to heighten your awareness of blind spots and strengthen your methodical approach, even towards seemingly simple situations.

Prerequisites

1. You need a Tsumego book. Printed matter will work better than digital stuff.
2. Ideally it should be aimed well below your current level. The puzzles should not feel hard.

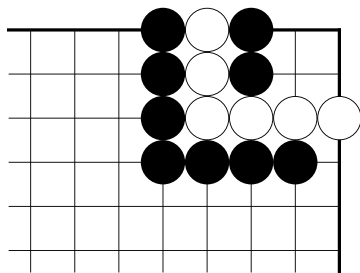
Premise

- Every puzzle consists of a series of sub-puzzles.
- The set of sub-puzzles arises from all possible points that could be the first move.

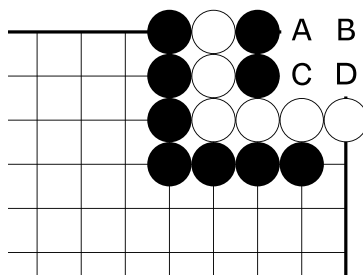
Method

1. Break down the tsumego into a series of sub-puzzles.
2. Solve these puzzles one by one.
3. Do this even if the sub-puzzle doesn't seem to offer any viable solution.
4. Even if one sub-puzzles appears to offer the correct solution, you still solve the remaining sub-puzzles completely – nothing is skipped.

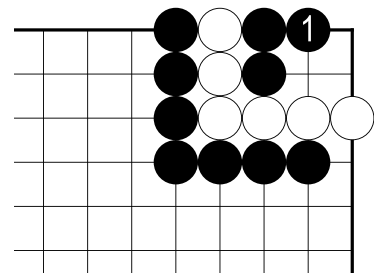
Example 1: Black to Kill



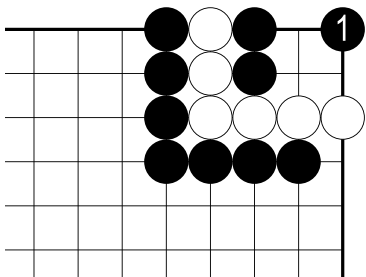
Possible Moves



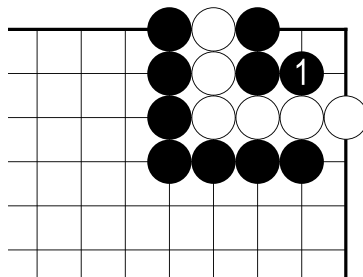
Sub-Puzzle A



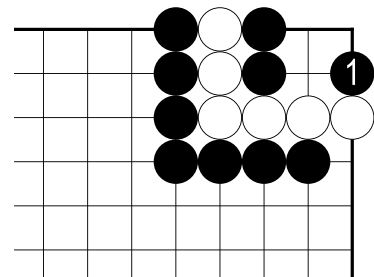
Sub-Puzzle B



Sub-Puzzle C



Sub-Puzzle D



This is a Tsumego with four possible starting points, so it is easy to divide. For every sub-puzzle white has only three possible answers.

Not every puzzle you encounter will prove to be so manageable. However, this method is not meant as a one-solution-fits-it-all approach. It is more important to train a methodical thought process and your ability to visualize, than to actually solve a given puzzle. This is why it is important to apply it to easy puzzles.