

Weekly Challenge #2: Answers

Welcome to the Count on Us Secondary Challenge's second weekly challenge. This one looks at Hex strategy.

On each board some blue and red players are already on the board. The red team play next. Your job is to place the next red player on the board and then explain why they are sure to win the round, regardless of what the blue team do. In all but the first board, there are many possible answers. Find them all!

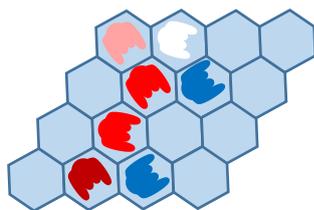
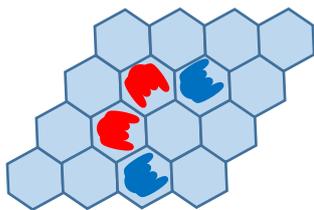
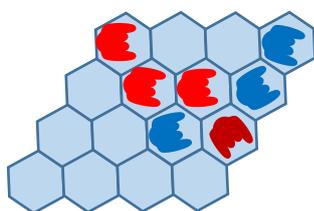
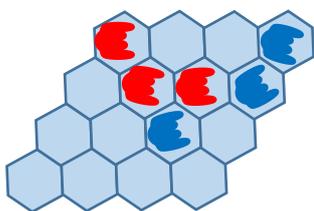
Challenge

Answer

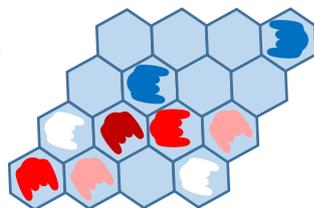
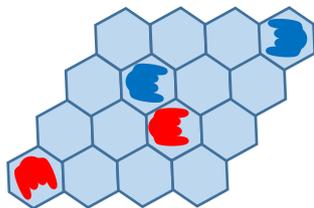
The next move is shown in darker red.

The first challenge has a single winning move. Red wins with a line from left to right.

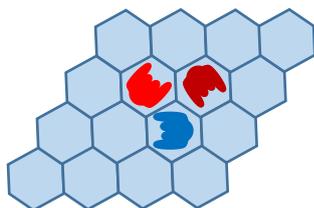
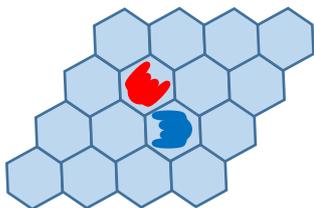
Following moves for shown red in pink.
 Following moves for blue shown in white.



With this move, red now has three in a line and two possible positions to place the fourth move. So, blue can defend by stopping one of the positions (above the top red player), but not both. Red will win on the next turn.



With this move, red has created a situation where the line from left to right needs two further moves. However, in both cases there are two choices. So, each time blue will be able to stop one but not the other.



If red has one of the 4 central spaces and takes a second one, they are sure to win. They now have the position of the second puzzle. They can take a space on both sides with two choices for each. So, blue cannot stop them! (No following moves are shown).

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