

2515. Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array

Description

You are given a **0-indexed circular** string array `words` and a string `target`. A **circular array** means that the array's end connects to the array's beginning.

- Formally, the next element of `words[i]` is `words[(i + 1) % n]` and the previous element of `words[i]` is `words[(i - 1 + n) % n]`, where `n` is the length of `words`.

Starting from `startIndex`, you can move to either the next word or the previous word with `1` step at a time.

Return *the shortest distance needed to reach the string* `target`. If the string `target` does not exist in `words`, return `-1`.

Example 1:

```
Input: words = ["hello","i","am","leetcode","hello"], target = "hello", startIndex = 1
Output: 1
Explanation: We start from index 1 and can reach "hello" by
- moving 3 units to the right to reach index 4.
- moving 2 units to the left to reach index 4.
- moving 4 units to the right to reach index 0.
- moving 1 unit to the left to reach index 0.
The shortest distance to reach "hello" is 1.
```

Example 2:

```
Input: words = ["a","b","leetcode"], target = "leetcode", startIndex = 0
Output: 1
Explanation: We start from index 0 and can reach "leetcode" by
- moving 2 units to the right to reach index 3.
- moving 1 unit to the left to reach index 3.
The shortest distance to reach "leetcode" is 1.
```

Example 3:

```
Input: words = ["i","eat","leetcode"], target = "ate", startIndex = 0
Output: -1
Explanation: Since "ate" does not exist in words, we return -1.
```

Constraints:

- `1 <= words.length <= 100`
- `1 <= words[i].length <= 100`
- `words[i]` and `target` consist of only lowercase English letters.
- `0 <= startIndex < words.length`

