2746. Decremental String Concatenation

Description

You are given a **0-indexed** array words containing n strings.

Let's define a **join** operation **join**(x, y) between two strings x and y as concatenating them into xy. However, if the last character of x is equal to the first character of y, one of them is **deleted**.

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For example <code>join("ab", "ba") = "aba"</code> and <code>join("ab", "cde") = "abcde"</code>.
```

You are to perform $\begin{bmatrix} n-1 \end{bmatrix}$ **join** operations. Let $\begin{bmatrix} str_0 = words[0] \end{bmatrix}$. Starting from $\begin{bmatrix} i = 1 \end{bmatrix}$ up to $\begin{bmatrix} i = n-1 \end{bmatrix}$, for the $\begin{bmatrix} i & th \end{bmatrix}$ operation, you can do one of the following:

```
    Make str i = join(str i - 1, words[i])
```

Make str i = join(words[i], str i - 1)

Your task is to minimize the length of str n - 1.

Return an integer denoting the minimum possible length of str n - 1.

Example 1:

```
Input: words = ["aa","ab","bc"]
Output: 4
Explanation: In this example, we can perform join operations in the following order to minimize the length of str<sub>2</sub>:
str<sub>0</sub> = "aa"
str<sub>1</sub> = join(str<sub>0</sub>, "ab") = "aab"
str<sub>2</sub> = join(str<sub>1</sub>, "bc") = "aabc"
It can be shown that the minimum possible length of str<sub>2</sub> is 4.
```

Example 2:

```
Input: words = ["ab","b"]
Output: 2
Explanation: In this example, str 0 = "ab", there are two ways to get str 1:
join(str 0, "b") = "ab" or join("b", str 0) = "bab".
The first string, "ab", has the minimum length. Hence, the answer is 2.
```

Example 3:

```
Input: words = ["aaa","c","aba"]
Output: 6
Explanation: In this example, we can perform join operations in the following order to minimize the length of str<sub>2</sub>:
str<sub>0</sub> = "aaa"
str<sub>1</sub> = join(str<sub>0</sub>, "c") = "aaac"
str<sub>2</sub> = join("aba", str<sub>1</sub>) = "abaaac"
It can be shown that the minimum possible length of str<sub>2</sub> is 6.
```

Constraints:

- 1 <= words.length <= 1000
- 1 <= words[i].length <= 50
- Each character in words[i] is an English lowercase letter