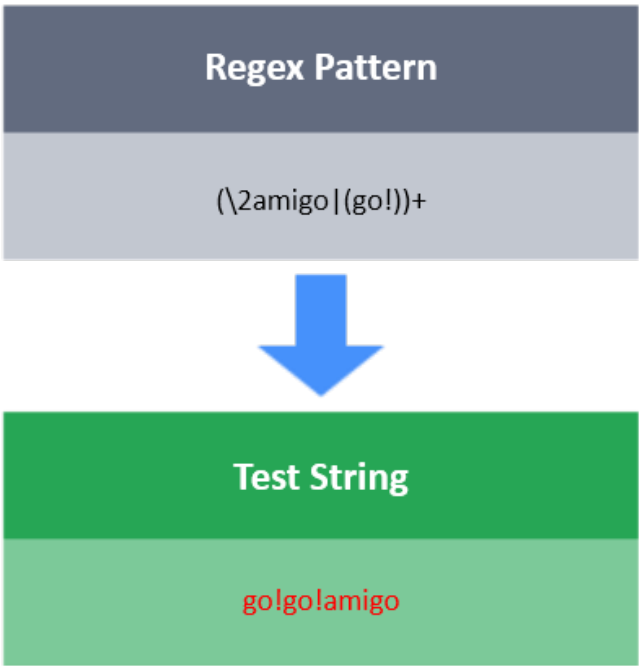


# Forward References

**NOTE** - Forward reference is supported by JGsoft, .NET, Java, Perl, PCRE, PHP, Delphi and Ruby regex flavors.

Forward reference creates a back reference to a regex that would appear later. Forward references are only useful if they're inside a repeated group. Then there may arise a case in which the regex engine evaluates the backreference after the group has been matched already.



*In the above image, Regex Pattern is matched with the Test String.*

## Task

You have a test string  $S$ .  
Your task is to write a regex which will match  $S$ , with following condition(s):

- $S$  consists of **tic** or **tac**.
- tic** should not be immediate neighbour of itself.
- The first **tic** must occur only when **tac** has appeared atleast twice before.

## Valid $S$

tactactic  
tactactictactic

## Invalid $S$

tactactictactictictac  
tactictac

## Note

This is a regex only challenge. You are not required to write any code.  
You only have to fill the regex pattern in the blank (  ).

