

◆ Problem Explanation (Simple Words)

You are given a **string** **s**.

Your task is to **reverse only the vowels** in the string and keep all other characters **in the same position**.

☞ Vowels = a e i o u A E I O U

◆ Example

Input:

`s = "hello"`

Output:

`"holle"`

Only vowels e and o are reversed.

◆ Dry Run (Example: "leetcode")

Original string: l e e t c o d e

Vowels found : e e o e

Positions of vowels:

index: 1, 2, 5, 7

Reverse vowels order:

e o e e

Final string:

l e o t c e d e

✓ Output: "leotcede"

✓ Approach 1: Using ArrayList (Collect & Replace)

◆ Idea

1. Traverse the string and **store all vowels** in an **ArrayList**.
 2. Reverse the **ArrayList**.
 3. Traverse the string again and **replace vowels** using the reversed list.
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◆ Steps

1. Convert string → char array
 2. Store vowels in ArrayList
 3. Reverse the list
 4. Replace vowels in original string
-

❖ Time & Space Complexity

- **Time:** $O(n)$
 - **Space:** $O(n)$ (for ArrayList)
-

❖ C++ Code (ArrayList / Vector)

```
class Solution {

public:

bool isVowel(char c) {

    return string("aeiouAEIOU").find(c) != string::npos;

}

string reverseVowels(string s) {

    vector<char> vowels;

    for (char c : s) {

        if (isVowel(c)) vowels.push_back(c);

    }

    reverse(vowels.begin(), vowels.end());



    int idx = 0;

    for (char &c : s) {

        if (isVowel(c)) {

            c = vowels[idx++];

        }

    }

}
```

```
    return s;  
}  
};
```

◆ Java Code (ArrayList)

```
class Solution {  
  
    public boolean isVowel(char c) {  
        return "aeiouAEIOU".indexOf(c) != -1;  
    }  
  
    public String reverseVowels(String s) {  
        ArrayList<Character> list = new ArrayList<>();  
  
        for (char c : s.toCharArray()) {  
            if (isVowel(c)) list.add(c);  
        }  
  
        Collections.reverse(list);  
  
        char[] arr = s.toCharArray();  
        int idx = 0;  
        for (int i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {  
            if (isVowel(arr[i])) {  
                arr[i] = list.get(idx++);  
            }  
        }  
  
        return new String(arr);  
    }  
}
```

◆ Python Code (List)

```
class Solution:

    def reverseVowels(self, s: str) -> str:
        vowels = set("aeiouAEIOU")
        lst = [c for c in s if c in vowels]

        lst.reverse()
        res = []
        idx = 0

        for c in s:
            if c in vowels:
                res.append(lst[idx])
                idx += 1
            else:
                res.append(c)

        return "".join(res)
```

✓ Approach 2: Using Character Array (128) + Two Pointers (Optimized)

◆ Idea

- Use a **boolean array of size 128** to mark vowels.
- Use **two pointers (l, r)**
- Swap vowels when both pointers point to vowels.

☞ This avoids extra space like ArrayList.

◆ Steps

1. Mark vowels in char[128]
2. Convert string → char array
3. Use two pointers:
 - Move left until vowel

- Move right until vowel
 - Swap
-

◆ Time & Space Complexity

- **Time:** $O(n)$
 - **Space:** $O(1)$ ✓ (constant)
-

◆ C++ Code (Two Pointers)

```
class Solution {  
  
public:  
  
    string reverseVowels(string s) {  
  
        vector<bool> isVowel(128, false);  
  
        string v = "aeiouAEIOU";  
  
        for (char c : v) isVowel[c] = true;  
  
  
        int l = 0, r = s.size() - 1;  
  
  
        while (l < r) {  
            while (l < r && !isVowel[s[l]]) l++;  
            while (l < r && !isVowel[s[r]]) r--;  
  
            swap(s[l], s[r]);  
            l++; r--;  
        }  
  
        return s;  
    }  
};
```

◆ Java Code (Two Pointers)

```
class Solution {  
  
    public String reverseVowels(String s) {
```

```

boolean[] isVowel = new boolean[128];
for (char c : "aeiouAEIOU".toCharArray()) {
    isVowel[c] = true;
}

char[] arr = s.toCharArray();
int l = 0, r = arr.length - 1;

while (l < r) {
    while (l < r && !isVowel[arr[l]]) l++;
    while (l < r && !isVowel[arr[r]]) r--;

    char temp = arr[l];
    arr[l] = arr[r];
    arr[r] = temp;

    l++; r--;
}

return new String(arr);
}

```

◆ Python Code (Two Pointers)

```

class Solution:

    def reverseVowels(self, s: str) -> str:
        vowels = [False] * 128
        for c in "aeiouAEIOU":
            vowels[ord(c)] = True

        s = list(s)
        l, r = 0, len(s) - 1

```

```

while l < r:

    while l < r and not vowels[ord(s[l])]:
        l += 1

    while l < r and not vowels[ord(s[r])]:
        r -= 1

    s[l], s[r] = s[r], s[l]

    l += 1
    r -= 1

return "".join(s)

```

⌚ Final Comparison

Approach	Time	Space	Interview	Preferred
ArrayList	O(n)	O(n)	✗	
Two Pointers + Array	O(n)	O(1)	✓	BEST