```python
1.
word1 = input("Enter first string: ")
word2 = input("Enter second string: ")
merged_string = ""
i, j = 0, 0
while i < len(word1) or j < len(word2):
    if i < len(word1):
        merged_string += word1[i]
        i += 1
    if j < len(word2):
        merged_string += word2[j]
        j += 1
print("Merged string:", merged_string)


2.
def canPlaceFlowers(flowerbed, n):
    count = 0
    length = len(flowerbed)
    for i in range(length):
        if flowerbed[i] == 0:
            empty_left = (i == 0 or flowerbed[i - 1] == 0)
            empty_right = (i == length - 1 or flowerbed[i + 1] == 0)
            if empty_left and empty_right:
                flowerbed[i] = 1
                count += 1
                if count >= n:
                    return True
    return count >= n
```