

Medium 4744 198 Add to List Share

word_A is a **predecessor** of word_B if and only if we can insert **exactly one** letter anywhere in word_A **without changing the order of the other characters** to make it equal to word_B.

- A **word chain** is a sequence of words $[word_1, word_2, \dots, word_k]$ with $k \geq 1$, where $word_1$ is a **predecessor** of $word_2$, $word_2$ is a **predecessor** of $word_3$, and so on. A single word is trivially a **word chain** with $k = 1$.

Example 1:

Explanation: One of the longest word chains is ["a", "ba", "bda", "bdca"].

Explanation: All the words can be put in a word chain ["xb", "xbc", "cxbc", "pcxbc", "pcxbc"].

Explanation: The trivial word chain ["abcd"] is one of the longest word chains. ["abcd", "dbqca"] is not a valid word chain because the ordering of the letters is changed.

- `1 <= words.length <= 1000`
- `1 <= words[i].length <= 16`
- `words[i]` only consists of lowercase English letters.

Seen this question in a real interview before?

Yes	No
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Show Hint 2

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