

Partition List

For this problem we must rearrange nodes so that:-

- All nodes $< x$ come first
- All nodes $\geq x$ come after.
- Relative order within each partition must be preserved.

Idea (Two Lists Method) =

- Use ~~two~~ separate dummy heads:
 - Less list: nodes $< x$
 - Greater list: nodes $\geq x$
- Traverse the original list:
 - Append nodes to the corresponding list.
- Concatenate the two lists.

This approach ensures $O(n)$ time and preserves order.

Steps:

1. Create two dummy nodes.
 - less Head (start of less-than- x list)
 - greater Head (start of greater-or-equal- x list)
2. Traverse head:
 - If $val < x$: append to less
 - Else: append to greater.
3. Merge less and greater.
4. Ensure greater Tail \rightarrow next = null ptr (terminate list).

Complexity:

- Time: $O(n)$ (single pass through the list)
- Space: $O(1)$ (in-place, only dummy nodes used).