

## Word Search II

The trick to pass big inputs is: build a tree for words, then DFS the board following tree edges, pruning dead paths early.

### Plan:

#### 1. Tree node:

- Tree Node { Tree Node \* next [26] { nullptr }; bool is End = false; string word; }
- Store the full word at the terminal node (is End = true). That lets you push results in  $O(1)$  without carrying a path vector.

#### 2. Build tree:

- For each word:
  - walk (create children by  $idx = ch - 'a'$ )
  - at the end: is End = true; node  $\rightarrow$  word = word

#### 3. DFS from every cell:

- Arguments: (r, c, node)
- If board[r][c] is not a child from node, stop.
- Move to that child. If child  $\rightarrow$  is End:
  - add child  $\rightarrow$  is End = false (prevents duplicates if multiple paths reach it)
- Mark the board cell as visited (e.g., set to '#'), explore 4 neighbors, restore after.
- Prune: if after exploring you see child has no non-null children and 'child  $\rightarrow$  is End', you can delete that node (optional micro-optimization).

#### 4. Visited handling:

- Use in-place marking ('#') and restore the character when unwinding.
- Avoid a separate visited matrix for cache locality.

### Boundaries & pruning:

- Bounds check ( $0 \leq r < m, 0 \leq c < n$ )
- If board[r][c] == '#' skip (already in path.)
- Early cut: if current tree node has no child for board[r][c], return

immediately (huge pruning).

Complexity:

- Building tree: total word chars  $\sum |w|$  ( $\leq 305$ )
  - BFS: Each cell explores at most 4 dies; tree pruning kills most branches.
- This passes within limits.