

Design Add and Search Words

Data Structure

Core Idea:

- Use a tree.
 - add Word: standard tree insert.
 - search: handle '.' via DFS backtracking:
 - If current pattern char is a letter \rightarrow follow that one child.
 - If it is '.' \rightarrow try all non-null children from this node.
 - Success if you reach the end of the pattern at a node with `isEnd = true`.
- This works well because constraints are small (≤ 25 length, ≤ 2 dots), so branching is limited.

Node Design:

- bool is End
- Trie Node \rightarrow next[26] (or unordered_map; array is fine here).

Complexity:

Let L = word length, K = branching from a dot (≤ 26 , but in practice smaller).

- add Word: $O(L)$
- search: no dots $O(L)$
 - with dots: worst-case $O(K^d * L)$, where $d \leq 2$ (is still small)