




Alternating Characters

 by [amititkgp](#)

Problem

Submissions

Leaderboard

Discussions

Editorial 

Topics

You are given a string containing characters **A** and **B** only, your task is to change it into a string such that every two consecutive characters are different. To do this, you are allowed to delete one or more characters in the string.

Your task is to find the minimum number of required deletions.

For example, string **ABAA** should be changed to **ABA** by deleting one character **A**.

Input Format

The first line contains an integer t , i.e. the number of test cases.

The next t lines contain a string s .

Constraints

- $1 \leq t \leq 10$
- $1 \leq |s| \leq 10^5$

Output Format

For each test case, print the minimum number of deletions required in a new line.

Sample Input

```
5
AAAA
BBBBB
ABABABAB
BABABA
AAABBB
```

Sample Output

```
3
4
0
0
4
```

Explanation

The characters marked red are the ones that need to be deleted so that the string doesn't have two same consecutive characters.

AAA -> A (3 deletions)

BBBB -> B (4 deletions)

ABABABAB -> ABABABAB (0 deletions)

BABABA -> BABABA (0 deletions)

AAABBB -> AB (4 deletions)

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

Submissions: [75048](#)

Max Score: 20

Difficulty: Easy

Rate This Challenge:

☆☆☆☆☆

Need Help?

[String Basics](#)

[More](#)

Current Buffer (saved locally, editable)  

Java 7



```
1 import java.io.*;
2 import java.util.*;
3 import java.text.*;
4 import java.math.*;
5 import java.util.regex.*;
6
7 public class Solution {
8
9     static int alternatingCharacters(String s){
10         // Complete this function
11     }
12
13     public static void main(String[] args) {
14         Scanner in = new Scanner(System.in);
15         int q = in.nextInt();
16         for(int a0 = 0; a0 < q; a0++){
17             String s = in.next();
18             int result = alternatingCharacters(s);
19             System.out.println(result);
20         }
21     }
22 }
23
```

Line: 1 Col: 1

 [Upload Code as File](#)

☐ Test against custom input

Run Code

Submit Code

Join us on IRC at [#hackerrank](#) on freenode for hugs or bugs.

[Contest Calendar](#) | [Blog](#) | [Scoring](#) | [Environment](#) | [FAQ](#) | [About Us](#) | [Support](#) | [Careers](#) | [Terms Of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Request a Feature](#)