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Alternating Characters ☆

Problem

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You are given a string containing characters **A** and **B** only. Your task is to change it into a string such that there are no matching adjacent characters. To do this, you are allowed to delete zero or more characters in the string.

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

For example, given the string $s = \text{AABAAB}$, remove an **A** at positions **0** and **3** to make $s = \text{ABAB}$ in **2** deletions.

Function Description

Complete the `alternatingCharacters` function in the editor below. It must return an integer representing the minimum number of deletions to make the alternating string.

`alternatingCharacters` has the following parameter(s):

- `s`: a string

Input Format

The first line contains an integer q , the number of queries.

The next q lines each contain a string s .

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Difficulty	Easy
Max Score	20
Submitted By	172637

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Constraints

- $1 \leq q \leq 10$
- $1 \leq |s| \leq 10^5$
- Each string s will consist only of characters A and B

Output Format

For each query, print the minimum number of deletions required on 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 can be deleted so that the string doesn't have matching consecutive characters.

[Download problem statement](#)[Download sample test cases](#)[Suggest Edits](#)

CHOOSE A TRANSLATION

Spanish ▼



AAA -> A (3 deletions)

BBBB -> B (4 deletions)

ABABABAB -> ABABABAB (0 deletions)

BABABA -> BABABA (0 deletions)

AABB -> AB (4 deletions)

Change Theme

Python 3



```
1  #!/bin/python3
2
3
4  def alternatingCharacters(s):
5      dels=0
6      for i in range(len(s)-1):
7          if(s[i]==s[i+1]):
8              dels+=1
9      print(dels)
10
11  q = int(input())
```

```
13 for q_itr in range(q):
14     s = input()
15     result = alternatingCharacters(s)
16
```

Line: 14 Col: 5

 Upload Code as File☐ Test against custom input

Run Code

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Running Testcases

 Test case 0  Test case 3  Test case 6  Test case 9  Test case 1  Test case 4  Test case 7  Test case 10  Test case 2  Test case 5  Test case 8  Test case 11 

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