

# Problem 3

I approached the task as a DP problem and began by pinning down **state**:

- `i` – how many trees are fixed so far
- `g` – groups (beauty) currently formed
- `c` – colour of the last painted tree

So the value I need is

```
dp[i][g][c] = minimum paint to colour trees 0...i-1
               with g groups, ending in colour c
```

## First attempt:

I naïvely tried a greedy “paint the cheapest colour each time” pass.

It raced through the sample but blew up on hidden tests: the greedy step often locked me into too many / too few groups and could never back-track.

## Second attempt:

Converted the idea to a 1-D DP ( `best[i] = min paint up to i` ).

Failed again because the beauty constraint depends on **both** the previous colour and the current group count, a single dimension cannot remember both.

## Final (accepted)

### 1. Initialise

`cur[0][0] = 0` , everything else = INF.

### 2. Transition for each tree `pos`

*If the tree is pre-coloured* → only that colour is legal, cost 0.

*Else* try every colour `col` and add `cost[pos][col]` .

New group count `ng = g + (col != last)` ; skip if `ng > k` .

Update  $\text{nxt}[\text{ng}][\text{col}] = \min(\text{nxt}[\text{ng}][\text{col}], \text{cur}[\text{g}][\text{last}] + \Delta\text{cost})$  .

3. **Roll arrays** (  $\text{cur} \leftrightarrow \text{nxt}$  ) to keep memory  $O(k \cdot m)$  .

4. **Answer** =  $\min(\text{cur}[\text{k}][\text{col}])$  , or  $-1$  if all are INF.