

You are given two strings word1 and word2. Merge the strings by adding letters in alternating order, starting with word1. If a string is longer than the other, append the additional letters onto the end of the merged string.

Return *the merged string*.

Example 1:

Input: word1 = "abc", word2 = "pqr"

Output: "apbqcr"

Explanation: The merged string will be merged as so:

word1: a b c

word2: p q r

merged: a p b q c r

Example 2:

Input: word1 = "ab", word2 = "pqrs"

Output: "apbqrs"

Explanation: Notice that as word2 is longer, "rs" is appended to the end.

word1: a b

word2: p q r s

merged: a p b q r s

Example 3:

Input: word1 = "abcd", word2 = "pq"

Output: "apbqcd"

Explanation: Notice that as word1 is longer, "cd" is appended to the end.

word1: a b c d

word2: p q

merged: a p b q c d