## 1. Strokes to paint

Alex wants to paint a picture. In one stroke, Alex can only paint adjacent cells with the same letter which are connected horizontally or vertically but not diagonally.

Given the painting as a 2-dimensional array of letters, find the minimum number of strokes to completely paint the picture.

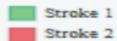
**Example:** The canvas with height = 3 and width = 5 is to be painted with picture=["aabba", "aaacb"]. The diagram below shows the 5 strokes needed to paint the canvas. It takes two strokes each for a and b, and one for c.

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_	40		Call Vas

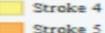
a	a	ь	ь	a
a	а	ь	ь	a
a	a	a	c	ь

Output (No. of Strokes): 5

а	а	ъ	ъ	а
а	а	ъ	ъ	а
2	а	a	С	ь







# First Question

## **Function Description**

Complete the function *strokesRequired* in the editor below. The function must return an integer, the minimum number of strokes required to paint the canvas.

strokesRequired has the following parameter(s): picture[picture[0],...picture[h-1]]: an array of strings where each string represents one row of the picture to be painted

#### Constraints

- $1 \le h \le 10^5$
- $1 \le w \le 10^5$
- $1 \le h^*w \le 10^5$
- len(picture[i]) = w (where 0 ≤ i < h)</li>
- picture[i][j] ∈ {'a', 'b', 'c'} (where 0 ≤ i < h and 0</li>
  ≤ j < w)</li>

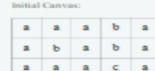
## Sample Input For Custom Testing

3 aaaba ababa aaaca

## **Sample Output**

5

### **Explanation**





Letter a takes 2 strokes, b takes 2 strokes and c takes 1 stroke for a total of 5.