

1768. Merge Strings Alternately

Easy Topics Companies Hint

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
```

Constraints:

- $1 \leq \text{word1.length}, \text{word2.length} \leq 100$
- `word1` and `word2` consist of lowercase English letters.