

Explanation

I try every word for the first row. For each of them, try every fitting word for the second row. And so on. The first few rows determine the first few columns and thus determine how the next row's word must start. For example:

```
wall
       Try words
                     wall
                                            wall
                                                                   wall
a... => starting =>
                     area
                             Try words
                                            area
1...
        with "a"
                      le..
                           => starting => lead
                              with "le"
1...
                      la..
                                            lad. => starting =>
                                                                  lady
                                                     with "lad"
```

For quick lookup, my fulls dictionary maps prefixes to lists of words who have that prefix.

C++ Solution (accepted in ~180 ms)

```
class Solution {
public:
   vector<vector<string>> wordSquares(vector<string>& words) {
       n = words[0].size();
       square.resize(n);
        for (string word : words)
            for (int i=0; i<n; i++)
               fulls[word.substr(0, i)].push_back(word);
        build(0);
       return squares;
   }
   int n:
   unordered_map<string, vector<string>> fulls;
   vector<string> square;
   vector<vector<string>> squares;
   void build(int i) {
       if (i == n) {
           squares.push_back(square);
           return:
        string prefix;
        for (int k=0; k<i; k++)
           prefix += square[k][i];
        for (string word : fulls[prefix]) {
           square[i] = word;
           build(i + 1);
       }
   }
};
```