

Loop Operations

A loop can have many different goals, so it is hard to generalize about this step. A good start is to look at the variables you created in the last step and ask: "**How are these variables processed**" to produce the desired output?"

Are you calculating a **sum**, **counting** different occurrences, or **transforming** existing values into new values? The statements inside the loop body will almost always **update the variables created in the goal precondition** in some way.

In our case, we need to increment our counter every time through the loop, since each time we read a character (that isn't a period), we want to count it.

```
str <- string supplied to the problem
counter <- 0
pos <- 0
letter <- str.at(pos)
while letter is not a period
{
  Step 5: The Goal Operation or Action
  counter <- counter + 1
  pos <- pos + 1
  letter <-> str.at(pos)
}
```



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