

## ◆ Medium Difficulty (25)

- Count unique characters in a string.**  
*Answer:* Use a set or collections.Counter to count unique chars.  
*Test:* "hello" → 4
- Check if two strings are anagrams.**  
*Answer:* Sort both or count frequencies.  
*Test:* "listen", "silent" → True
- Return the nth Fibonacci number (recursive with memo).**  
*Answer:* Use recursion + lru\_cache or dict caching.  
*Test:* n=10 → 55
- Find duplicates in a list.**  
*Answer:* Use set to track seen and duplicates list.  
*Test:* [1, 2, 3, 2, 4, 3] → [2, 3]
- Flatten a nested list.**  
*Answer:* Use recursion or iterative stack.  
*Test:* [1, [2, [3, 4]], 5] → [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
- Merge two sorted lists.**  
*Answer:* Two-pointer merge in O(n+m).  
*Test:* [1, 3, 5], [2, 4] → [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
- Check if parentheses string is valid.**  
*Answer:* Use stack and matching pairs.  
*Test:* "([])" → True, "(" → False
- Find middle node of a linked list.**  
*Answer:* Floyd's tortoise and hare.  
*Test:* [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] → 3
- Remove duplicates from a linked list.**  
*Answer:* Use hash set.

Test: `[1,2,2,3] → [1,2,3]`

10. **Check if binary tree is balanced.**

Answer: Recursively check heights  $\pm 1$ .

Test: Balanced tree  $\rightarrow$  `True`, skewed  $\rightarrow$  `False`

11. **Inorder traversal of a binary tree.**

Answer: Recursion or iterative with stack.

Test: Tree `[2,1,3] → [1,2,3]`

12. **Level-order traversal (BFS) of binary tree.**

Answer: Use queue.

Test: Tree `[1,2,3,4,5] → [[1],[2,3],[4,5]]`

13. **Sort characters by frequency.**

Answer: Use Counter + sort by value.

Test: `"tree" → "eert" or "rtee"`

14. **Check if number is power of two.**

Answer: `n>0 and n&(n-1)==0`.

Test: `16→True, 18→False`

15. **Reverse words in a sentence.**

Answer: `s.split()[::-1]` and join.

Test: `"hello world"→"world hello"`

16. **Rotate a matrix 90°.**

Answer: Transpose + reverse each row.

Test: `[[1,2],[3,4]]→[[3,1],[4,2]]`

17. **Spiral order of a matrix.**

Answer: Traverse layers with four loops.

Test: `[[1,2,3],[4,5,6],[7,8,9]]→[1,2,3,6,9,8,7,4,5]`

18. **Find all subsets (power set).**

Answer: Use recursion/backtracking.

Test: `[1,2]→[[],[1],[2],[1,2]]`

19. **Generate permutations.**

Answer: Use recursion, or itertools.

Test:  $[1, 2] \rightarrow [[1, 2], [2, 1]]$

**20. Find longest common prefix.**

Answer: Sort strings and compare first vs last.

Test:  $["flower", "flow", "flight"] \rightarrow "fl"$

**21. Implement binary search.**

Answer: Classic mid-pointer search.

Test:  $[1, 3, 5, 7], 5 \rightarrow \text{index } 2$

**22. Count islands in grid.**

Answer: Use DFS/BFS to mark visited.

Test:  $[[ '1', '0' ], [ '0', '1' ]] \rightarrow 2$

**23. Convert Roman numeral to integer.**

Answer: Iterate, subtract when next is larger.

Test:  $"MCMIV" \rightarrow 1904$

**24. LRU cache class.**

Answer: Use OrderedDict or linked hash map.

Test: Chain of puts/gets evict older.

**25. Implement stack using two queues.**

Answer: Push costly or pop costly variant.

Test: Push 1,2; pop  $\rightarrow 2$

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## ◆ Hard Difficulty (25)

**26. Word ladder length.**

Answer: BFS over word graph.

Test:  $"hit", "cog", ["hot", "dot", "dog", "lot", "log", "cog"] \rightarrow 5$

**27. Median of two sorted arrays.**

Answer: Binary search kth element in  $O(\log(\min(m, n)))$ .

Test:  $[1, 3], [2] \rightarrow 2.0$

**28. Find smallest window containing all patterns.**

Answer: Sliding window + counts.

*Test:* `s="ADOBECODEBANC", t="ABC" → "BANC"`

**29. Word break problem.**

*Answer:* DP boolean array.

*Test:* `"leetcode", ["leet", "code"] → True`

**30. Min path sum in grid.**

*Answer:* DP accumulate along paths.

*Test:* `[[1,3,1],[1,5,1],[4,2,1]] → 7`

**31. Clone a graph.**

*Answer:* DFS with hash map clones.

*Test:* small adjacency test.

**32. Minimum window subsequence.**

*Answer:* Two-pointer with backward trace.

*Test:* `S="abcdebdde", T="bde" → "bcde"`

**33. Find max flow (Edmonds-Karp).**

*Answer:* BFS augmenting paths.

*Test:* Simple capacity graph.

**34. Trapping rain water.**

*Answer:* Two-pointer method.

*Test:* `[0,1,0,2,1,0,1,3,2,1,2,1] → 6`

**35. Serialize and deserialize binary tree.**

*Answer:* Preorder + null markers.

*Test:* Roundtrip.

**36. Maximum rectangle in histogram.**

*Answer:* Monotonic stack.

*Test:* `[2,1,5,6,2,3] → 10`

**37. Longest palindromic substring.**

*Answer:* Expand-around-center or Manacher's.

*Test:* `"babad" → "bab" or "aba"`

**38. Basic calculator with +,-,\*,/, parentheses.**

*Answer:* Two stacks or recursive descent.

*Test:* `"3+(2*2)" → 7`

**39. Alien dictionary ordering.**

*Answer:* Build graph and topologically sort.

*Test:* ["wrt", "wrf", "er", "ett", "rftt"] → valid "wertf"

**40. N-Queens count solutions.**

*Answer:* Backtracking with columns and diagonals bitmasks.

*Test:* n=4 → 2

**41. Word search II.**

*Answer:* Trie + DFS in board.

*Test:* board, words list.

**42. Sudoku solver.**

*Answer:* Backtracking + row/col/block checks.

*Test:* Provide one sample board.

**43. LFU Cache.**

*Answer:* Double linked list + freq map.

*Test:* Eviction pattern.

**44. Minimum edit distance.**

*Answer:* DP matrix.

*Test:* "kitten", "sitting" → 3

**45. Largest divisible subset.**

*Answer:* DP sorting divisors.

*Test:* [1, 2, 4, 8] → [1, 2, 4, 8]

**46. Concat words to form a string.**

*Answer:* DP or trie.

*Test:* ["cat", "cats", "dog", "catsdog"] → True

**47. Design hit counter in sliding window.**

*Answer:* Circular buffer of timestamps.

*Test:* Sequence of hits/time.

**48. Find k-th largest in stream.**

*Answer:* Use min-heap of size k.

*Test:* Stream [4, 5, 8, 2], k=3, queries.

**49. Serialize arbitrary nested list.**

*Answer:* JSON-like parser.

Test: "[123, [456, [789]]]".

50. **Regex matching with '.' and '\*'.**

Answer: DP with state i,j.

Test: s = "aab", p = "c\*a\*b" → True

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## ✓ Example Test Case Format

### Q3. Fibonacci with memo

- Input: n = 10
- Expected: 55

### Q15. Reverse words

- Input: "the sky is blue"
- Expected: "blue is sky the"

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Happy coding! 💻