

Problem 244: Shortest Word Distance II

Problem Information

Difficulty: Medium

Acceptance Rate: 62.50%

Paid Only: Yes

Tags: Array, Hash Table, Two Pointers, String, Design

Problem Description

Design a data structure that will be initialized with a string array, and then it should answer queries of the shortest distance between two different strings from the array.

Implement the `WordDistance` class:

```
* `WordDistance(String[] wordsDict)` initializes the object with the strings array `wordsDict`. *  
`int shortest(String word1, String word2)` returns the shortest distance between `word1` and  
`word2` in the array `wordsDict`.
```

Example 1:

```
Input ["WordDistance", "shortest", "shortest"] [[["practice", "makes", "perfect", "coding",  
"makes"]], ["coding", "practice"], ["makes", "coding"]] Output [null, 3, 1] Explanation  
WordDistance wordDistance = new WordDistance(["practice", "makes", "perfect", "coding",  
"makes"]); wordDistance.shortest("coding", "practice"); // return 3  
wordDistance.shortest("makes", "coding"); // return 1
```

Constraints:

```
* `1 <= wordsDict.length <= 3 * 10^4` * `1 <= wordsDict[i].length <= 10` * `wordsDict[i]` consists  
of lowercase English letters. * `word1` and `word2` are in `wordsDict`. * `word1 != word2` * At  
most `5000` calls will be made to `shortest`.
```

Code Snippets

C++:

```
class WordDistance {
public:
    WordDistance(vector<string>& wordsDict) {

    }

    int shortest(string word1, string word2) {

    }
};

/**
 * Your WordDistance object will be instantiated and called as such:
 * WordDistance* obj = new WordDistance(wordsDict);
 * int param_1 = obj->shortest(word1,word2);
 */
```

Java:

```
class WordDistance {

    public WordDistance(String[] wordsDict) {

    }

    public int shortest(String word1, String word2) {

    }
}

/**
 * Your WordDistance object will be instantiated and called as such:
 * WordDistance obj = new WordDistance(wordsDict);
 * int param_1 = obj.shortest(word1,word2);
 */
```

Python3:

```
class WordDistance:

    def __init__(self, wordsDict: List[str]):
```

```
def shortest(self, word1: str, word2: str) -> int:
```

```
# Your WordDistance object will be instantiated and called as such:
```

```
# obj = WordDistance(wordsDict)
```

```
# param_1 = obj.shortest(word1,word2)
```