

# Problem 2515: Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array

## Problem Information

Difficulty: [Easy](#)

Acceptance Rate: 0.00%

Paid Only: No

## Problem Description

You are given a

0-indexed

circular

string array

words

and a string

target

. A

circular array

means that the array's end connects to the array's beginning.

Formally, the next element of

`words[i]`

is

`words[(i + 1) % n]`

and the previous element of

`words[i]`

is

`words[(i - 1 + n) % n]`

, where

`n`

is the length of

`words`

.

Starting from

`startIndex`

, you can move to either the next word or the previous word with

`1`

step at a time.

Return

the

shortest

distance needed to reach the string

```
target  
. If the string  
target  
does not exist in  
words  
, return  
-1  
.  
.
```

Example 1:

Input:

```
words = ["hello", "i", "am", "leetcode", "hello"], target = "hello", startIndex = 1
```

Output:

```
1
```

Explanation:

We start from index 1 and can reach "hello" by - moving 3 units to the right to reach index 4. - moving 2 units to the left to reach index 4. - moving 4 units to the right to reach index 0. - moving 1 unit to the left to reach index 0. The shortest distance to reach "hello" is 1.

Example 2:

Input:

```
words = ["a", "b", "leetcode"], target = "leetcode", startIndex = 0
```

Output:

1

Explanation:

We start from index 0 and can reach "leetcode" by - moving 2 units to the right to reach index 3. - moving 1 unit to the left to reach index 3. The shortest distance to reach "leetcode" is 1.

Example 3:

Input:

```
words = ["i", "eat", "leetcode"], target = "ate", startIndex = 0
```

Output:

-1

Explanation:

Since "ate" does not exist in

words

, we return -1.

Constraints:

$1 \leq \text{words.length} \leq 100$

$1 \leq \text{words}[i].length \leq 100$

$\text{words}[i]$

and

$\text{target}$

consist of only lowercase English letters.

`0 <= startIndex < words.length`

## Code Snippets

### C++:

```
class Solution {  
public:  
    int closestTarget(vector<string>& words, string target, int startIndex) {  
  
    }  
};
```

### Java:

```
class Solution {  
    public int closestTarget(String[] words, String target, int startIndex) {  
  
    }  
}
```

### Python3:

```
class Solution:  
    def closestTarget(self, words: List[str], target: str, startIndex: int) ->  
        int:
```

### Python:

```
class Solution(object):  
    def closestTarget(self, words, target, startIndex):  
        """  
        :type words: List[str]  
        :type target: str  
        :type startIndex: int  
        :rtype: int  
        """
```

### JavaScript:

```
/**  
 * @param {string[]} words  
 * @param {string} target  
 * @param {number} startIndex  
 * @return {number}  
 */  
var closestTarget = function(words, target, startIndex) {  
  
};
```

### TypeScript:

```
function closestTarget(words: string[], target: string, startIndex: number):  
number {  
  
};
```

### C#:

```
public class Solution {  
public int ClosestTarget(string[] words, string target, int startIndex) {  
  
}  
}
```

### C:

```
int closestTarget(char** words, int wordsSize, char* target, int startIndex)  
{  
  
}
```

### Go:

```
func closestTarget(words []string, target string, startIndex int) int {  
  
}
```

### Kotlin:

```
class Solution {  
fun closestTarget(words: Array<String>, target: String, startIndex: Int): Int  
{
```

```
}
```

```
}
```

### Swift:

```
class Solution {  
    func closestTarget(_ words: [String], _ target: String, _ startIndex: Int) ->  
        Int {  
  
    }  
}
```

### Rust:

```
impl Solution {  
    pub fn closest_target(words: Vec<String>, target: String, start_index: i32)  
        -> i32 {  
  
    }  
}
```

### Ruby:

```
# @param {String[]} words  
# @param {String} target  
# @param {Integer} start_index  
# @return {Integer}  
def closest_target(words, target, start_index)  
  
end
```

### PHP:

```
class Solution {  
  
    /**  
     * @param String[] $words  
     * @param String $target  
     * @param Integer $startIndex  
     * @return Integer  
     */
```

```
function closestTarget($words, $target, $startIndex) {  
}  
}  
}
```

### Dart:

```
class Solution {  
int closestTarget(List<String> words, String target, int startIndex) {  
}  
}  
}
```

### Scala:

```
object Solution {  
def closestTarget(words: Array[String], target: String, startIndex: Int): Int  
= {  
}  
}
```

### Elixir:

```
defmodule Solution do  
@spec closest_target(words :: [String.t], target :: String.t, start_index ::  
integer) :: integer  
def closest_target(words, target, start_index) do  
  
end  
end
```

### Erlang:

```
-spec closest_target(Words :: [unicode:unicode_binary()]), Target ::  
unicode:unicode_binary(), StartIndex :: integer()) -> integer().  
closest_target(Words, Target, StartIndex) ->  
.
```

### Racket:

```
(define/contract (closest-target words target startIndex)
  (-> (listof string?) string? exact-integer? exact-integer?))
)
```

## Solutions

### C++ Solution:

```
/*
 * Problem: Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array
 * Difficulty: Easy
 * Tags: array, string
 *
 * Approach: Use two pointers or sliding window technique
 * Time Complexity: O(n) or O(n log n)
 * Space Complexity: O(1) to O(n) depending on approach
 */

class Solution {
public:
    int closestTarget(vector<string>& words, string target, int startIndex) {

    }
};
```

### Java Solution:

```
/**
 * Problem: Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array
 * Difficulty: Easy
 * Tags: array, string
 *
 * Approach: Use two pointers or sliding window technique
 * Time Complexity: O(n) or O(n log n)
 * Space Complexity: O(1) to O(n) depending on approach
 */

class Solution {
    public int closestTarget(String[] words, String target, int startIndex) {

    }
}
```

```
}
```

### Python3 Solution:

```
"""
Problem: Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array
Difficulty: Easy
Tags: array, string

Approach: Use two pointers or sliding window technique
Time Complexity: O(n) or O(n log n)
Space Complexity: O(1) to O(n) depending on approach
"""

class Solution:

    def closestTarget(self, words: List[str], target: str, startIndex: int) -> int:
        # TODO: Implement optimized solution
        pass
```

### Python Solution:

```
class Solution(object):

    def closestTarget(self, words, target, startIndex):
        """
        :type words: List[str]
        :type target: str
        :type startIndex: int
        :rtype: int
        """


```

### JavaScript Solution:

```
/**
 * Problem: Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array
 * Difficulty: Easy
 * Tags: array, string
 *
 * Approach: Use two pointers or sliding window technique
 * Time Complexity: O(n) or O(n log n)
 * Space Complexity: O(1) to O(n) depending on approach
 */
```

```

        */

    /**
     * @param {string[]} words
     * @param {string} target
     * @param {number} startIndex
     * @return {number}
     */
    var closestTarget = function(words, target, startIndex) {

    };

```

### TypeScript Solution:

```

    /**
     * Problem: Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array
     * Difficulty: Easy
     * Tags: array, string
     *
     * Approach: Use two pointers or sliding window technique
     * Time Complexity: O(n) or O(n log n)
     * Space Complexity: O(1) to O(n) depending on approach
     */

    function closestTarget(words: string[], target: string, startIndex: number):
    number {

    };

```

### C# Solution:

```

    /*
     * Problem: Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array
     * Difficulty: Easy
     * Tags: array, string
     *
     * Approach: Use two pointers or sliding window technique
     * Time Complexity: O(n) or O(n log n)
     * Space Complexity: O(1) to O(n) depending on approach
     */

```

```

public class Solution {
    public int ClosestTarget(string[] words, string target, int startIndex) {
        }
    }
}

```

### C Solution:

```

/*
 * Problem: Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array
 * Difficulty: Easy
 * Tags: array, string
 *
 * Approach: Use two pointers or sliding window technique
 * Time Complexity: O(n) or O(n log n)
 * Space Complexity: O(1) to O(n) depending on approach
 */

int closestTarget(char** words, int wordsSize, char* target, int startIndex)
{
}

}

```

### Go Solution:

```

// Problem: Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array
// Difficulty: Easy
// Tags: array, string
//
// Approach: Use two pointers or sliding window technique
// Time Complexity: O(n) or O(n log n)
// Space Complexity: O(1) to O(n) depending on approach

func closestTarget(words []string, target string, startIndex int) int {
}

```

### Kotlin Solution:

```

class Solution {
    fun closestTarget(words: Array<String>, target: String, startIndex: Int): Int
}

```

{ } }

## **Swift Solution:**

```
class Solution {  
    func closestTarget(_ words: [String], _ target: String, _ startIndex: Int) -> Int {  
        // Implementation  
    }  
}
```

## Rust Solution:

```
// Problem: Shortest Distance to Target String in a Circular Array
// Difficulty: Easy
// Tags: array, string
//
// Approach: Use two pointers or sliding window technique
// Time Complexity: O(n) or O(n log n)
// Space Complexity: O(1) to O(n) depending on approach

impl Solution {
    pub fn closest_target(words: Vec<String>, target: String, start_index: i32) -> i32 {
        }

        }
}
```

## Ruby Solution:

```
# @param {String[]} words
# @param {String} target
# @param {Integer} start_index
# @return {Integer}

def closest_target(words, target, start_index)

end
```

## PHP Solution:

```

class Solution {

    /**
     * @param String[] $words
     * @param String $target
     * @param Integer $startIndex
     * @return Integer
     */
    function closestTarget($words, $target, $startIndex) {

    }
}

```

### Dart Solution:

```

class Solution {
    int closestTarget(List<String> words, String target, int startIndex) {
    }
}

```

### Scala Solution:

```

object Solution {
    def closestTarget(words: Array[String], target: String, startIndex: Int): Int =
    {
    }
}

```

### Elixir Solution:

```

defmodule Solution do
  @spec closest_target([String.t], String.t, integer) :: integer
  def closest_target(words, target, start_index) do
    end
  end
end

```

### Erlang Solution:

```
-spec closest_target(Words :: [unicode:unicode_binary()], Target ::  
unicode:unicode_binary(), StartIndex :: integer()) -> integer().  
closest_target(Words, Target, StartIndex) ->  
. 
```

### Racket Solution:

```
(define/contract (closest-target words target startIndex)  
(-> (listof string?) string? exact-integer? exact-integer?))  
) 
```