

# Problem 1768: Merge Strings Alternately

## Problem Information

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Acceptance Rate:** 82.09%

**Paid Only:** No

**Tags:** Two Pointers, String

## Problem Description

You are given two strings `word1` and `word2`. Merge the strings by adding letters in alternating order, starting with `word1`. If a string is longer than the other, append the additional letters onto the end of the merged string.

Return `the merged string.`

**Example 1:**

**Input:** `word1 = "abc", word2 = "pqr"` **Output:** `"apbqcr"` **Explanation:** The merged string will be merged as so: `word1: a b c word2: p q r merged: a p b q c r`

**Example 2:**

**Input:** `word1 = "ab", word2 = "pqrs"` **Output:** `"apbqrs"` **Explanation:** Notice that as `word2` is longer, `"rs"` is appended to the end. `word1: a b word2: p q r s merged: a p b q r s`

**Example 3:**

**Input:** `word1 = "abcd", word2 = "pq"` **Output:** `"apbqcd"` **Explanation:** Notice that as `word1` is longer, `"cd"` is appended to the end. `word1: a b c d word2: p q merged: a p b q c d`

**Constraints:**

`1 <= word1.length, word2.length <= 100` `word1` and `word2` consist of lowercase English letters.

## Code Snippets

### C++:

```
class Solution {  
public:  
    string mergeAlternately(string word1, string word2) {  
  
    }  
};
```

### Java:

```
class Solution {  
    public String mergeAlternately(String word1, String word2) {  
  
    }  
}
```

### Python3:

```
class Solution:  
    def mergeAlternately(self, word1: str, word2: str) -> str:
```