**Algorithm** Find the number of nodes in the shortest path to convert begin\_word to end\_word using only valid conversions

Require: The length of both the words should be same Ensure: You can only change one character at a time

- 1: **function** WORD\_LADDER(begin\_word, end\_word, word\_list)
  - $\triangleright$  dictionary is a hashmap containing all the valid words in the dictionary
  - $\triangleright visited$  is a hashmap containing all the strings which are already processed in the queue

```
for each word in word_list do
2:
          dictionary.insert(word)
 3:
       queue.push(begin\_word, 1)
 4:
       visited.insert(begin\_word)
 5:
                                                                                    ▶ Perform BFS
       while queue is not empty do
 6:
           (current\_string, level) \leftarrow queue.front
 7:
 8:
          queue.pop
9:
          if current\_string == end\_word then
              return level
10:
          for Each element in current_string do
11:
              for Each char in the alphabet do
12:
                 backup \leftarrow element
13:
                 Replace element by char
                                                                           ▷ Create the new string
14:
                 if current_string is in dictionary then
15:
                     if current_string is not in visited then
16:
                         queue.push(current\_string, level + 1)
17:
                        visited.push(current\_string)
18:
                 Replace char by backup
                                                                     ▶ Get the original string back
19:
       return Not Possible
20:
```