



Alternating Characters

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Problem

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Shashank likes strings in which consecutive characters are different. For example, he likes *ABABA*, while he doesn't like *ABAA*. Given a string containing characters *A* and *B* only, he wants to change it into a string he likes. To do this, he is allowed to delete the characters in the string.

Your task is to find the minimum number of required deletions.

Input Format

The first line contains an integer *T*, i.e. the number of test cases.
The next *T* lines contain a string each.

Output Format

For each test case, print the minimum number of deletions required.

Constraints

$1 \leq T \leq 10$
 $1 \leq \text{length of string} \leq 10^5$

Sample Input

```
5
AAAA
BBBBB
ABABABAB
BABABA
AAABBB
```

Sample Output

```
3
4
0
0
4
```

Explanation

AAAA \implies *A*, 3 deletions
BBBBB \implies *B*, 4 deletions
ABABABAB \implies *ABABABAB*, 0 deletions
BABABA \implies *BABABA*, 0 deletions
AAABBB \implies *AB*, 4 deletions because to convert it to *AB* we need to delete 2 *A*'s and 2 *B*'s

Related Topics

[String Basics](#)

Submissions: 40818

Max Score: 20

Difficulty: Easy

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Current Buffer (saved locally, editable)

Java 7 ▾



```

1 import java.io.*;
2 import java.util.*;
3 import java.text.*;
4 import java.math.*;
5 import java.util.regex.*;
6
7 public class Solution {
8
9     public static void main(String[] args) {
10         Scanner read = new Scanner(System.in);
11         int n = read.nextInt();
12         for(int i=0;i<n;i++){
13             String item = read.next();
14             char prev;
15             int count=0;
16             for(int z=1;z<item.length();z++){
17                 prev=item.toCharArray()[z-1];
18                 if(item.toCharArray()[z]==prev){
19                     count++;
20                 }
21             }
22             System.out.println(count);
23         }
24     }
25 }

```

Line: 21 Col: 14

[Upload Code as File](#) ☐ Test against custom input

Run Code

Submit Code

Testcase 0

Congratulations, you passed this test case!

Input (stdin)

```

5
AAAA
BBBBB
ABABABAB
BABABA
AAABBB

```

Your Output (stdout)

```

3
4
0
0
4

```

Expected Output

```

3
4
0
0
4

```

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