

# Longest String Chain

You are given an array of words where each word consists of lowercase English letters.

word<sub>A</sub> is a **predecessor** of word<sub>B</sub> if and only if we can insert **exactly one** letter anywhere in word<sub>A</sub> **without changing the order of the other characters** to make it equal to word<sub>B</sub>.

- For example, "abc" is a **predecessor** of "abac", while "cba" is not a **predecessor** of "bcad".

A **word chain** is a sequence of words [word<sub>1</sub>, word<sub>2</sub>, ..., word<sub>k</sub>] with k >= 1, where word<sub>1</sub> is a **predecessor** of word<sub>2</sub>, word<sub>2</sub> is a **predecessor** of word<sub>3</sub>, and so on. A single word is trivially a **word chain** with k == 1.

Return *the length of the longest possible word chain with words chosen from the given list of words*.

## Example 1:

**Input:** words = ["a","b","ba","bca","bda","bdca"]

**Output:** 4

**Explanation:** One of the longest word chains is ["a","ba","bda","bdca"].

## Example 2:

**Input:** words = ["xbc","pcxbcf","xb","cxbc","pcxbc"]

**Output:** 5

**Explanation:** All the words can be put in a word chain ["xb","xbc","cxbc","pcbc","pcxbcf"].

## Example 3:

**Input:** words = ["abcd","dbqca"]

**Output:** 1

**Explanation:** The trivial word chain ["abcd"] is one of the longest word chains.

["abcd","dbqca"] is not a valid word chain because the ordering of the letters is changed.

## Constraints:

- 1 <= words.length <= 1000
- 1 <= words[i].length <= 16
- words[i] only consists of lowercase English letters.