

2019 AP[®] COMPUTER SCIENCE A FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

3. Many encoded strings contain *delimiters*. A delimiter is a non-empty string that acts as a boundary between different parts of a larger string. The delimiters involved in this question occur in pairs that must be *balanced*, with each pair having an open delimiter and a close delimiter. There will be only one type of delimiter for each string. The following are examples of delimiters.

Example 1

Expressions in mathematics use open parentheses " (" and close parentheses ") " as delimiters. For each open parenthesis, there must be a matching close parenthesis.

$(x + y) * 5$ is a valid mathematical expression.

$(x + (y)$ is NOT a valid mathematical expression because there are more open delimiters than close delimiters.

Example 2

HTML uses `` and `` as delimiters. For each open delimiter ``, there must be a matching close delimiter ``.

` Make this text bold ` is valid HTML.

` Make this text bold </UB>` is NOT valid HTML because there is one open delimiter and no matching close delimiter.

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In this question, you will write two methods in the following `Delimiters` class.

```
public class Delimiters
{
    /** The open and close delimiters. */
    private String openDel;
    private String closeDel;

    /** Constructs a Delimiters object where open is the open delimiter and close is the
     * close delimiter.
     * Precondition: open and close are non-empty strings.
     */
    public Delimiters(String open, String close)
    {
        openDel = open;
        closeDel = close;
    }

    /** Returns an ArrayList of delimiters from the array tokens, as described in part (a). */
    public ArrayList<String> getDelimitersList(String[] tokens)
    { /* to be implemented in part (a) */ }

    /** Returns true if the delimiters are balanced and false otherwise, as described in part (b).
     * Precondition: delimiters contains only valid open and close delimiters.
     */
    public boolean isBalanced(ArrayList<String> delimiters)
    { /* to be implemented in part (b) */ }

    // There may be instance variables, constructors, and methods that are not shown.
}
```

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- (a) A string containing text and possibly delimiters has been split into *tokens* and stored in `String[] tokens`. Each token is either an open delimiter, a close delimiter, or a substring that is not a delimiter. You will write the method `getDelimitersList`, which returns an `ArrayList` containing all the open and close delimiters found in `tokens` in their original order.

The following examples show the contents of an `ArrayList` returned by `getDelimitersList` for different open and close delimiters and different `tokens` arrays.

Example 1

```
openDel: "("
closeDel: ")"
tokens:  ["(", "x + y", ")", "* 5"]
ArrayList
of delimiters: ["(", ")"]
```

Example 2

```
openDel: "<q>"
closeDel: "</q>"
tokens:  ["<q>", "yy", "</q>", "zz", "</q>"]
ArrayList
of delimiters: ["<q>", "</q>", "</q>"]
```

Class information for this question

```
public class Delimiters
private String openDel
private String closeDel

public Delimiters(String open, String close)
public ArrayList<String> getDelimitersList(String[] tokens)
public boolean isBalanced(ArrayList<String> delimiters)
```

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Complete method `getDelimitersList` below.

```
/** Returns an ArrayList of delimiters from the array tokens, as described in part (a). */  
public ArrayList<String> getDelimitersList(String[] tokens)
```

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- (b) Write the method `isBalanced`, which returns `true` when the delimiters are balanced and returns `false` otherwise. The delimiters are balanced when both of the following conditions are satisfied; otherwise, they are not balanced.
1. When traversing the `ArrayList` from the first element to the last element, there is no point at which there are more close delimiters than open delimiters at or before that point.
 2. The total number of open delimiters is equal to the total number of close delimiters.

Consider a `Delimiters` object for which `openDel` is "`^{`" and `closeDel` is "`}`". The examples below show different `ArrayList` objects that could be returned by calls to `getDelimitersList` and the value that would be returned by a call to `isBalanced`.

Example 1

The following example shows an `ArrayList` for which `isBalanced` returns `true`. As tokens are examined from first to last, the number of open delimiters is always greater than or equal to the number of close delimiters. After examining all tokens, there are an equal number of open and close delimiters.

"^{"	"^{"	"}"	"^{"	"}"	"}"
---------	---------	----------	---------	----------	----------

Example 2

The following example shows an `ArrayList` for which `isBalanced` returns `false`.

"^{"	"}"	"</sup>"	"<sup>"
---------	----------	----------	---------

↑

When starting from the left, at this point, condition 1 is violated.

Example 3

The following example shows an `ArrayList` for which `isBalanced` returns `false`.

"</sup>"

↑

At this point, condition 1 is violated.

Example 4

The following example shows an `ArrayList` for which `isBalanced` returns `false` because the second condition is violated. After examining all tokens, there are not an equal number of open and close delimiters.

"<sup>"	"^{"	"}"
---------	---------	----------

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Class information for this question

```
public class Delimiters
private String openDel
private String closeDel

public Delimiters(String open, String close)
public ArrayList<String> getDelimitersList(String[] tokens)
public boolean isBalanced(ArrayList<String> delimiters)
```

Complete method `isBalanced` below.

```
/** Returns true if the delimiters are balanced and false otherwise, as described in part (b).
 * Precondition: delimiters contains only valid open and close delimiters.
 */
public boolean isBalanced(ArrayList<String> delimiters)
```