



## Puzzle: Machine Input-Output

### Instructions:

A word-number arrangement machine processes an input line of words and numbers following a particular rule in each step. The following is an example:

#### Input:

win 84 game 29 more 63 hard 18

#### Step I:

18 win 84 game 29 more 63 hard

#### Step II:

18 game win 84 29 more 63 hard

#### Step III:

18 game 29 win 84 more 63 hard

#### Step IV:

18 game 29 hard win 84 more 63

#### Step V:

18 game 29 hard 63 win 84 more

#### Step VI:

18 game 29 hard 63 more win 84

#### Step VII:

18 game 29 hard 63 more 84 win

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### ? Question:

What will be the **Step III output** if the input is:

learn 52 grow 14 start 39 high 78

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### ✓Solution:

Let's first understand the pattern:



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1. **Step I:** Smallest number is brought to the front.
2. **Step II:** First word alphabetically is moved after the number.
3. **Step III:** Next smallest number placed next.
4. **Step IV:** Next word alphabetically is placed after that, and so on.

Basically, the machine **alternates** between placing the **next smallest number** and the **next word alphabetically**.

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### Given Input:

learn 52 grow 14 start 39 high 78

### Step-by-step:

- **Words in order:** grow, high, learn, start
  - **Numbers in order:** 14, 39, 52, 78
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### Step I:

Place smallest number → 14 learn 52 grow start 39 high 78

### Step II:

Place first word alphabetically (grow) after that →

14 grow learn 52 start 39 high 78

### Step III:

Place next smallest number (39) →

14 grow 39 learn 52 start high 78

### ✓Answer:

14 grow 39 learn 52 start high 78