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The Virtual Learning Environment for Computer Programming

## Counting a's (3)

X55221\_en

Write a function  $count\_a(s, stop)$  that given a string s and a character stop returns the number of times that letter a occurs in s before the first appearance of character stop. If character stop is not in s, the function must return -1.

## Sample session

```
>>> count_a('naturally', 'u')
1
>>> count_a('russian', 't')
-1
>>> count_a('adaptation', 'a')
0
>>> count_a('adaptation', 'n')
3
```

## **Problem information**

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