// compstr.cpp -- comparing strings
#include <iostream>
#include <cstring>     // prototype for strcmp()
using namespace std;

int main()
{
    char word[5] = "?ate";

    for (char ch = 'a'; strcmp(word, "mate"); ch++)
    {
        cout << word << "\n";
        word[0] = ch;
    }
    cout << "After loop ends, word is " << word << "\n";
    return 0;
}

Compatibility Note

You might have to use string.h instead of cstring. Also, the code assumes the system uses the ASCII character code set. In this set, the codes for the letters a through z are consecutive, and the code for the ? character immediately precedes the code for a.

Here is the output:

?ate
aate
bate
cate
date
eate
fate
gate
hate
iate