

Commonly Confused Words

"Vain" is an adjective meaning unsuccessful or conceited.

Example: The lost hiker's calls for help were in **vain**.

"Vein" is a noun meaning a blood vessel, or a deposit of minerals.

Example: His speech was full of **veins** of gold.

"Vane" is a noun meaning an instrument detecting the direction of winds (weather vane) or a long flat blade of a windmill.

Example: The old church steeple had a weather **vane** shaped like a fish.

PREVIEW

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Choose the correct word.

- 1) The man's efforts were in _____.
- 2) The weather _____ atop the barn indicated the wind's direction.
- 3) The man's _____ was full of gold.
- 4) He felt a sharp _____ in his arm.
- 5) Our team's strategy was _____.
- 6) The weather _____ creaked as it turned in the breeze.
- 7) The king's _____ pursuit of immortality led to the downfall of his kingdom.
- 8) The river carved a deep _____ through the mountains.