ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Vain or Vein Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

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Explanations

1. The weather ___ on the roof spun round in the storm.
✔ **B) vane**
A weather vane is a blade that turns in the wind to show its direction.

2. He's terribly ___ and spends hours choosing his clothes.
✔ **B) vain**
Vain is the adjective for someone who is too proud of their looks.

3. We searched in ___ for the missing key.
✔ **C) vain**
In vain means without success. We looked, but we did not find the key.

4. The nurse took some blood from one of the ___ in my arm.
✔ **C) veins**
Veins are the tubes in your body that carry blood back to your heart. After one of the we need the plural.

5. The comedian's second show was in the same ___ as her first.
✔ **B) vein**
In the same vein means in the same style or mood. The phrase always uses the singular vein.

6. Strong winds broke one of the windmill's ___.
✔ **A) vanes**
The blades of a windmill are its vanes: the wind pushes them round.

7. After hours of digging, the miners found a rich ___ of silver.
✔ **D) vein**
In rock, a vein is a thin band of a mineral, such as silver or quartz.

8. Pride and ___ made the prince refuse everyone's help.
✔ **A) vanity**
The noun from vain is vanity. The i of vain drops out, so there is no word vainity.

9. Hold the leaf up to the window and you will see its tiny ___.
✔ **A) veins**
The thin lines in a leaf are its veins. They carry water and food through the leaf.

10. Don't be so ___! Nobody is looking at your new trainers.
✔ **D) vain**
After so we need an adjective, and vain means too proud of how you look.

11. A golden ___ shaped like a fish shows the wind direction on top of the town hall.
✔ **A) vane**
A vane turns in the wind. This one is a weather vane in the shape of a fish.

12. She hoped ___ that the rain would stop before the match.
✔ **C) vainly**
We need an adverb after hoped. Vainly means without success: the rain did not stop.

13. The speech started with a joke and carried on in a lighter ___.
✔ **D) vein**
In a lighter vein means in a less serious style. This is vein, the style word.

14. The fan has five plastic ___ that turn very fast.
✔ **B) vanes**
The flat blades of a fan are vanes. The plural is vanes, and five needs a plural.

15. The lifeguards' efforts were not in ___: the swimmer was safe.
✔ **C) vain**
Not in vain means the effort was a success. The fixed phrase is in vain, never in vainly.

16. After several ___ attempts to start the car, we called a mechanic.
✔ **C) vain**
A vain attempt is one without success. Vain is the adjective that means useless.

17. The kitchen table is made of white, grey-___ marble.
✔ **A) veined**
Veined marble has thin lines running through it. The adjective comes from vein.

18. She always carries a small ___ mirror in her bag.
✔ **C) vanity**
A vanity mirror is a small mirror for checking your looks. The noun from vain is vanity.

19. Ben is the ___ boy in our class. He looks in every mirror he passes.
✔ **A) vainest**
The superlative of vain is vainest: the most proud of his looks.

20. There is a gentle ___ of humour in all her stories.
✔ **D) vein**
A vein of humour is a thin line of it running through something, like a vein in rock.