Vain, vein and vane sound alike, but their meanings are different.

Vain is an adjective meaning without a result or being overly proud of one’s appearance.

Example 1: They watched the dog’s vain attempts to jump the fence.
Example 2: The vain man combed his hair twelve times a day.

Vein is usually a noun meaning a blood vessel, a deposit of minerals or an attitude.

Example 1: The vein pulsed on her temple.
Example 2: They found a vein of gold.
Example 3: The speaker took a lighter vein and told a joke.

Vane is a noun meaning either an instrument used to detect wind direction (often called a weather vane) or the flat blades of a weather vane.

Example 1: The vane moved on top of the roof as the wind shifted.

Choose vain, vein or vane to complete each sentence.

1. She hoped in _______________________ that the ambulance would arrive in time.

2. The broken _______________________ lay on the ground after the tornado.

3. The meeting went into a more serious _______________________ after the president spoke.

4. A _______________________ carries blood to the heart for oxygen.

5. As the storm came in, the _______________________ turned circles on the roof.

6. The explorer found a coal _______________________ in the hill.

7. Is it _______________________ to look in a mirror all the time?

8. When Charles fell he cut a _______________________ in his leg.

9. We found an old _______________________ in the attic.

10. All his lessons would not be in _______________________ if he could win the match.
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