

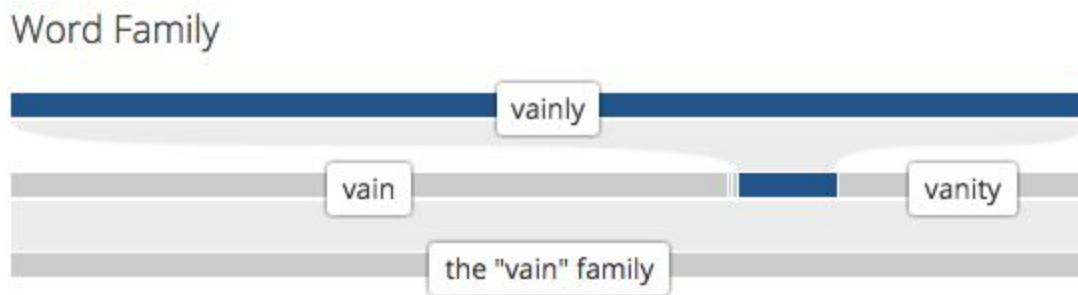
Q and A with *Vain*

Q: Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A: Sure, people tend to think of me as either snobby or worthless. If I'm used to describe a person, it's not a compliment. It means that the person is conceited and full of himself. If I'm used to describe an action, it usually means that things didn't go according to plan.

Q: Do you come from a big family?

A: Not really. I have two siblings – vainly (adv.) and vanity (noun) – but most people are familiar with me – the adjective of the family.



Q: What about your friends? With whom do you have a lot in common? To whom do you relate?

I have lots of friends – *conceited*, *swollen-headed*, and *egotistical* – to name a few. They are all in my clique.

I am also often spotted with my friend, the preposition "in." When we are together ("in vain"), people think we are useless and get frustrated with us since we aren't productive.

Usage Examples

 All Sources

 Fiction

 Arts / Culture

 News

 Business

 Sports

 Science / Med

 Technology

Louie sat by, listening as his bride was excoriated for marrying him, trying in **vain** to get her to hang up.

Unbroken

The merchant's attempts to convince Siddhartha that he was eating his, Kamaswami's, bread were also in **vain**.

Siddhartha

Kwasi held her hand tighter and they ran even faster, Amari trying in **vain** to be as invisible and swift as the wind.

Copper Sun

Q: What are some of the highlights of your life?

Well, I made it big in biblical times by working my way into the Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain."

It was hard to top that, but I have impressive staying power. Famous poets like Emily Dickinson discovered me ("If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain."), and even pop songwriters ("You're so vain you probably think this song is about you...").
(sources: Brainyquote.com, thinkexist.com, and songlyrics.com)

Q: Is there anything else we should know about you?

I don't know. You should try me out. I'm only one syllable, I rhyme well with others (e.g., gain, pain, train, explain, disdain, etc.), and you can make good use of me when insulting others.
(source: Vocabulary.com dictionary's advanced search rhyming function)