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van·i·ty  (văn ĭ-tē)

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n. pl. **van·i·ties**

1.

a. Excessive pride in one's appearance or accomplishments; conceit. See Synonyms at [conceit](#).

b. Something about which one is vain or conceited: *"One thing ... rather quenched her vanities: she had to wear her cousin's clothes" (Louisa May Alcott).*

2.

a. Worthlessness, pointlessness, or futility: *the vanity of regretting missed opportunities.*

b. Something that is vain, futile, or worthless.

3.

a. See [vanity case](#).

b. See [dressing table](#).

c. A bathroom cabinet that encloses a basin and its water lines and drain, usually furnished with shelves and drawers underneath for storage of toiletries.

[Middle English *vanite*, from Old French, from Latin *vānitās*, from *vānus*, empty; see [euā-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

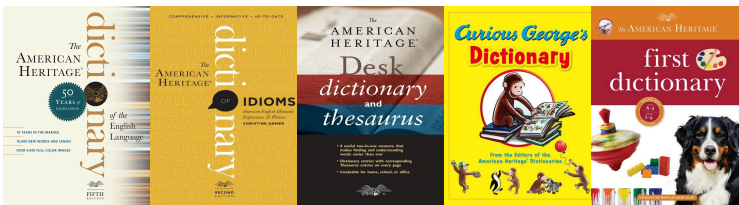
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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