



Look-out
Nicknamed "Jim Crow" because of his lofty perch, the look-out sounded a series of coded calls on his hunting horn to signal the approach of friends or enemies.

Standards were decorated with the coat-of-arms of the lord

Winch room
The portcullis that protected the castle gateway was very heavy. The garrison used a winch so that two men could lift it between them. Lowering the portcullis was easy: knocking out a stop or brake let it drop quickly to trap intruders.

Chimney
Only later castles had chimneys. The hot air rising up the chimney created a draught that kept the fire below blazing, sucking smoke from the room. Some early castles simply had a hole in the roof, and the fire burned in a grate in the middle of the floor. Others had fire-places which vented through openings in the wall.

Shut the gate
Metal studs on the thick oak gates blunted the axes of the soldiers who tried to break in.

Knife fight
Guarding the castle in a siege was boring yet often dangerous, and the stress made the mercenaries very jumpy.

What a pong!
Windows in the latrine tower provided plenty of ventilation (glass was a rare luxury).

Draught excluder
Costly tapestry hangings over the doors kept out the howling castle draughts.

Portcullis

Slot for portcullis

Ransom prisoner

Sleeping mattress stuffed with straw

Guard asleep on watch

Watch-turret

Latrine tower

Lead sheeting

Treasure chest
The constable guarded the valuables of the castle, and was probably quite wealthy himself. The job of constable was usually well-paid, and provided many extra opportunities to get rich.

Peep holes
Loops in the entrance arch allowed guards to inspect visitors in safety.

Gates within gates
Even in peace time the garrison shut the castle gates at night. Visitors entered through a wicket gate – a small door within the main gate.

Gaoler takes a fee for accepting another prisoner

Forget-me-not
Hidden at the back of the dungeon was a cramped cell-within-a-cell. This "oubliette" took its name from the French word *oublier*, to forget. Unwanted prisoners were pushed into the oubliette and forgotten.

Smelly job
Emptying the latrine pit was an unpleasant and unhealthy task. The unfortunate worker with the bucket and spade was called a "gong farmer".

Timber in storage

Gatekeeper's room

Murder hole

Metal studs

Prisoner in chains

A squint
A tiny peep hole called a squint allowed the gaoler to check on his charges.