



1. moat [məʊt]
2. curtain wall [ˌkɜːtɪn ˈwɔːl]
3. arrow slits [ˈærəʊ slɪts]
4. turret [ˈtʌrɪt]
5. battlements [ˈbætəlmənts]
6. walkway [ˈwɔːkweɪ]
7. buttress [ˈbʌtrəs]
8. gatehouse [ˈgeɪthaus]
9. murder hole [ˈmɜːdə həʊl]
10. portcullis [pɔːtˈkʌlɪs]
11. drawbridge [ˈdrɔːbrɪdʒ]
12. bailey [ˈbeɪli]
13. keep [kiːp]
14. dungeon [ˈdʌndʒən]
15. well [wel]

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VOCABULARY

Visiting a castle

Many of Britain's castles are famous tourist attractions.

ANNA HOCHSIEDER takes you to Beaumaris Castle in Wales.

MEDIUM PLUS

Welcome to Beaumaris Castle!

Beaumaris is one of the finest examples of **medieval** architecture in Britain and is listed as a **World Heritage Site**. It is part of a ring of **fortifications** built by King Edward I along the coast of North Wales. Construction work began in 1295, but the king ran out of money. The castle was never completed and **fell into ruin**. Thanks to extensive **restoration** work, it is nevertheless **well preserved** today.

The castle is heavily **fortified**, with two sets of **curtain walls**, and was considered **impregnable**. The **outer wall** connects 12 **turrets** and is partly surrounded by a water-filled **moat**. A **drawbridge** offered extra protection. The **inner wall** is 11 metres high and nearly five metres thick. Visitors can explore its **interior passageways**, connecting six **towers** and two **gatehouses**. One of the towers contains the **remains** of the castle **chapel**, with **pointed windows** and a **vaulted ceiling**.

The huge **bailey** was meant to contain **domestic buildings**, so there would have been plenty of room for a lavish **royal household**.

Illustrationen: Martin Haake

PRACTICE

Now try the following exercises to practise talking about castles.

Exercise 1

E

What are the parts of a castle called? Complete the definitions below with nouns from the opposite page.

- A. The _____ is the deep wide **ditch** dug around a castle and usually filled with water.
- B. The _____ is the **courtyard** within the castle walls.
- C. A(n) _____ is an opening in a ceiling or wall. It was used to pour boiling liquid on to enemies.
- D. The _____ is the highest and most secure part of the castle, usually located at its centre.
- E. A(n) _____ is a narrow opening in a wall, through which soldiers could shoot arrows.
- F. A(n) _____ is a small tower on top of a castle or at the corner of the castle wall.
- G. The _____ are the structures along the top of the wall around a castle with spaces through which weapons can be fired.

Exercise 2

M

Match the sentence halves to complete the definitions of expressions from the text on the opposite page.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. If a castle "falls into ruin",... B. If a castle is "well preserved",... C. If a castle is "heavily fortified",... D. If a castle is considered "impregnable",... E. If a castle is listed as a "World Heritage Site",... | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. it is thought to be so strongly built that it cannot be entered by force. 2. it is built with strong walls and other structures to protect it. 3. it becomes damaged because no one has been taking care of it. 4. it is not allowed to be changed or damaged. 5. it is old, but still in good condition. |
|--|--|

Exercise 3

A

Underline the correct adjectives to complete the sentences below.

- A. North Wales is the perfect travel destination for fans of **medieval / middle-aged** castles.
- B. The thick castle walls contain **internal / interior** passageways that you can walk along and explore.
- C. **Pointed / Pointy** windows and **bending / vaulted** ceilings are a typical feature of Gothic architecture.
- D. The castle may have contained **domestic / domesticated** buildings at one time.
- E. The castle was intended to provide accommodation for the **regal / royal** household.

Other words for "castle"

There are many English words that have a similar meaning to "castle". Here are a few examples:

A **chateau** (Schloss, Herrensit) is a castle or a large country house in France.

A **citadel** (Zitadelle, Hochburg) is a castle on high ground where people could go for safety if their city were attacked.

A **fort** (Fort) is a small castle used by soldiers to protect a place against attack.

Fortifications (Befestigungsanlagen) are strong buildings and walls built around a place to defend it.

A **fortress** (Festung) is a strong, well-protected town or building that functions as a place of defence.

A **palace** (Schloss, Palast) is a large and impressive building that is or used to be the official home of a ruler (such as a monarch, archbishop or head of state).

courtyard [ˈkɔːtjɑːd]

– Hof, Innenhof

ditch [dɪtʃ]

– (Wasser-)Graben



Answers

1. A. moat
B. bailey
C. murder hole
D. keep
E. arrow slit
F. turret
G. battlements
2. A-3
B-5
C-2
D-1
E-4
3. A. medieval
B. interior
C. Pointed; vaulted
D. domestic
E. royal