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**Hilt:**
The hilt is made up of the **pommel, tang, grip, and cross-guard**. Over the centuries, the hilt became more complex as extra hand protection was added in the form of side rings, knuckle-guards, and baskets. Some swords had longer hilts which could be gripped with two hands.

**Pommel:**
Metal weight attached to the end of the tang to balance out the blade.

**Tang and Grip:**
The tang is the portion of the blade which extends into the hilt. A wooden grip is constructed around the tang and then wrapped in leather or another material. The grip on many medieval swords has rotted away, leaving the tang exposed.

**Cross-Guard:**
Prevents an opponent’s sword from sliding down the blade and injuring the wielder’s hand.
**Blade:**
The *edge*, *point*, and *fuller* are parts of the blade. There were many different blade shapes for different functions. Some were curved, while others were straight. Some were made for cutting while others were made for thrusting. Some were designed as military weapons for use on the battlefield while others were designed as civilian fashion accessories or dueling weapons.

**Edge:**
The part of the blade sharpened for cutting attacks. Blades may have been sharpened on one or both edges, depending on the type of sword.

**Point:**
The part of the blade used for thrusting attacks. Some types of sword were used only for thrusting rather than cutting.
**Fuller:**
A hollowed out groove in the blade. Its purpose is to make the blade lighter while maintaining its stiffness. Not all blades have a fuller, but some have more than one fuller. The fuller on this sword runs almost the entire length of the blade.

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