There are 8 moon phases. We can see them in the night sky. The same side of the moon is always facing the Earth. Sometimes it has sunlight on it, other times it doesn't.

Moon Phases:
- New Moon
- Waxing Crescent Moon
- First Quarter Moon
- Waxing Gibbous Moon
- Full Moon
- Waning Gibbous Moon
- Last Quarter Moon
- Waning Crescent Moon

Click on a moon phase illustration to learn more about it.
Moon Phases
by Choco Taco Evans

New Moon~~
The side of the moon that has light is always facing the sun.

The side of the moon that faces the Earth is dark with night.

The New moon is between the sun and the Earth.

The New moon is not in the night sky, but rises and sets with the sun.

Solar Eclipse happen in this phase.
Waxing Crescent Moon~~

The side of the moon that faces the Earth is starting to have a sliver of sunlight on it. The rest of the moon's day is facing away from Earth.

The crescent moon is visible during dusk and evening.

It is also called Young Moon.
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First Quarter Moon~~

The side of the moon that faces the Earth is half sunlight and half night. The rest of the moon’s day is facing away from Earth towards the sun.

We call it the Waxing Quarter Moon. Sometimes it is called Half Moon (but it is really a quarter).

It can be seen from noon until midnight.
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Waxing Gibbous Moon

The side of the moon that faces the Earth is more than half in sunlight.

We call this the Waxing Gibbous Moon.

Waxing Gibbous Moon can be seen at sunset.

Gibbous comes from a word meaning hump-backed.
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The Full Moon

The side of the moon that faces the Earth is completely in the sunlight.

The dark side of the moon is not facing Earth.

Now the moon is as far from the sun as possible.

Lunar Eclipse happens in this phase.
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Waning Gibbous Moon
The side of the moon that faces Earth is more than half in the sunlight with a sliver of night.

The moon is past full.

We call this the Waning Gibbous (hump-backed) Moon.

The moon can be seen in the early morning sky.
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Last Quarter Moon~~

The side of the moon that faces the Earth is half sunlight and half night. The rest of the moon's day is facing away from Earth towards the sun.

We call this the Waning Quarter Moon. Sometimes it is called Half Moon (but it is really a quarter).

The Last Quarter Moon in seen during the morning until noon.
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Waning Crescent Moon~~

The side of the moon that faces the Earth has only a sliver of sunlight on it and more night. The rest of the moon's day is facing the sun.

We call it the Waning Crescent Moon.

It is also called Old Moon.