The Moon doesn't emit (give off) light itself, the 'moonlight' we see is actually the Sun's light reflected off the lunar surface.

As the Moon orbits the Earth, the Sun lights up different parts of it, making it seem as if the Moon is changing shape.

**NEW MOON:** When the Moon is between the Earth and the Sun, the moon blocks the light from the Sun. No part of the moon is visible from Earth.

**WAXING CRESCENT:** As the Moon continues to orbit Earth, it becomes visible again. This is called the waxing moon (waxing means that it’s getting bigger).

**FIRST QUARTER:** Half of the lit portion of the Moon is lit by the sun.

**WAXING GIBBOUS:** “Gibbous” means that more than half of the Moon is visible but not the entire circle.

**FULL MOON:** When the Earth is between the Sun and the Moon, half of the Moon is lit. From Earth, we can see the full circle

**WANING GIBBOUS:** More than half of the Moon is visible and the lit portion gets smaller every day.

**THIRD QUARTER:** The opposite half of the Moon is lit compared to the First Quarter Moon.

**WANING CRESCENT:** Less than half of the Moon is visible and slowly decreases to the New Moon.

