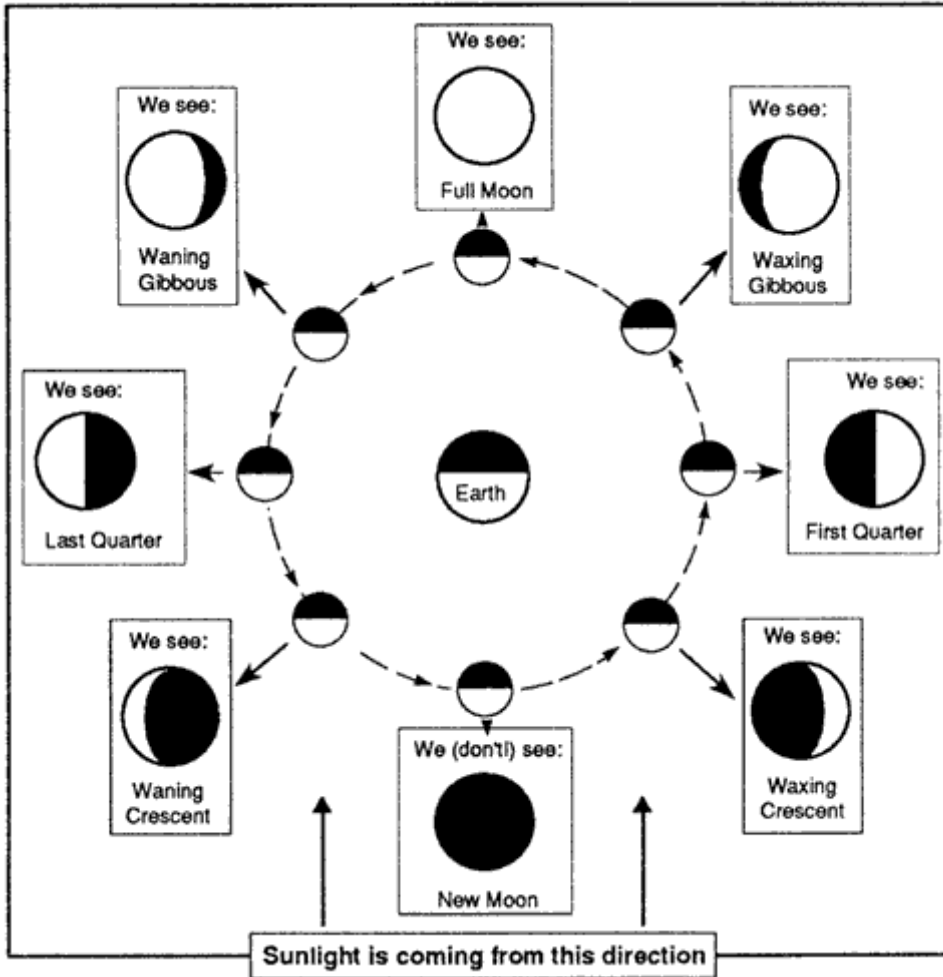


Moon Phases



The pictures are shown from a northern hemisphere perspective. Those of us who live in the northern hemisphere (outside the tropics) have to look generally south to see the Moon when it's highest in the sky, and we see the right-hand side illuminated at first quarter phase, for example. People who live in temperate or high latitudes south of the equator must look toward the north; to them the first quarter moon has its left side illuminated.

The diagram is not to scale. In reality, the Moon is 1/4 the diameter of the Earth and its orbit's width is about 60 times the Earth's diameter.

Moon Visibility...

The table gives a summary of approximately when the Moon is visible and where to look (the crescent and gibbous phases are in between the table values). There are times during the moon's monthly cycle that the Moon is sometimes visible in broad daylight!

Phase	Ahead or Behind the Sun	Rise Time in the East	Mid-Point in the Sky	Set Time in the West
New	Within few minutes	Sunrise	Noon	Sunset
1st Qtr.	6 hrs behind	Noon	Sunset	Midnight
Full	12 hrs behind	Sunset	Midnight	Sunrise
3rd Qtr.	6 hrs ahead	Midnight	Sunrise	Noon