New Moon: occurs when the moon is positioned *between* the earth and sun

Waxing Crescent: After the new moon, the sunlit portion of the moon is increasing, but by less than half, so it is a waxing crescent. Waxing means increase.

First Quarter: also called ‘half moon’ happens when the moon is at a 90 degree angle. So we see one half lit by the sun and the other half in shadow

Waxing Gibbous: the sunlit portion of the moon is still increasing but MORE than half is lit by the sun.

At full moon, the earth, sun, and the moon are completely aligned so we see the ENTIRE side of the moon that is facing us and being lit by the sun.

Here comes the waning gibbous! In this phase the sun lit part of the moon is now decreasing. Waning means decrease.

Last quarter aka third quarter is next and again the moon is at a 90 degree angle so one half of the moon is lit and the other is not.

During the waning crescent phase the light continues to wane until we again get……

A new moon! And the cycle starts all over again,