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**Happy  
Lunar  
New Year!**

**Lunar  
refers to  
the moon.**

**What is  
this  
celebration  
all about?**



**It's the year of the snake!**

- In brief, a **lunar calendar** is based on the monthly cycles of our Moon's phases--called lunations--each lunation is ~29.5 days. A lunar year is 354 days. The lunar new year begins with the first new moon of the year in the Gregorian calendar, which is a solar calendar.
- The eight lunar phases are: new moon, waxing crescent, first quarter, waxing gibbous, full moon, waning gibbous, third quarter, and waning crescent. The cycle repeats once a month (every 29.5 days). A waxing moon is becoming more visible, a waning moon is becoming less so.



## The Moon as seen from Earth