Phrases for Phases

Lyrics by Becky Nelson, Lunar and Planetary Institute
Sung to the tune *The Ants Go Marching.*
Moon phases are shown in capital letters.

Each Moon phase marches COUNTERCLOCKWISE —
Now, let’s start . . .
The first phase is the NEW MOON that we see as dark.
Then next the WAXING CRESCENT shines
A little light upon the right,
And after that’s the
QUARTER MOON, where the
Right half’s light.

Following is WAXING GIBBOUS on the right,
Where the light continues spreading and becoming bright.
We’ll be halfway through the phases soon,
With the FULLest, brightest, biggest Moon,
Just before the dark creeps
On the right
Of a WANING MOON.

The WANING GIBBOUS phase is when the light will shrink,
Then what will be the next phase after that, you think?
It’s once again a QUARTER MOON,
But the dark half’s now upon the right,
And the left side is the
One’s that’s bright!!
Did you get that right?

The next phase is the last phase where there’s just a spark
Of light, so WANING CRESCENT appears almost dark!
The Moon is really magical,
When it’s WAXING, WANING, NEW or FULL.
And it couldn’t shine at all
without ......
The SUN’S ......bright light!!