



Break Time  
Lesson

Advanced

Intermediate +

Intermediate

Pre-Intermediate



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# The Moon

**Focus:** idioms using *moon*; reading comprehension; describing something.

**Vocabulary:** *relatively, diameter, phase, barren, solidified, maria*

**Activity 1:** Read the text below about the moon then practice saying it:

Many planets have their own natural *satellite* - a large planet like body which orbits its parent planet. The Earth has just one natural satellite - the moon, which is about 290,000 miles away.

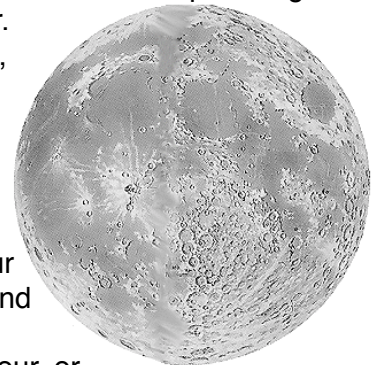
While most moons are relatively small compared to their parent planet, our moon is quite large with a diameter of about 2,155 miles. That's just over 25% of the earth's diameter.

From the ground here on Earth, we always see the same side of the moon, and how much we see depends on the phase of the moon, and how much of the moon's surface is visible in sunlight.

It's a dry and barren place, with many craters on its surface, caused by meteorite impacts. The dark areas you can see on the moon are caused by larger craters that have been filled with solidified lava, to form *maria* or "seas" (there is no water known to exist in these "seas"). These maria occur mainly on the near-side which we can see, and most have mountains around their rims, which form crater walls thousands of feet high.

In English, the word "moon" is sometimes used to express feelings or humour, or give meaning to nouns in the form of an adjective such as *It's moonlike* or *It's a moonless planet*.

- 1) *poetic/literary or humorous* usage: *many moons ago* - this means *some time ago (months or years)*.  
Example: He last went to the movies *many moons ago*. (It has been a long time since he went to the movies). This tells us that the moon has been seen many times since he went.
- 2) *informal* usage: *he mooned me* - meaning he exposed his buttocks at me to insult / amuse me.
- 3) *informal* usage: *He's over the moon* - he's very happy about something.



**Activity 2:** Read the following statements based on Activity 1 and say if they are True or False:

- 1) There are moons around every known planet in the solar system.
- 2) Satellites are orbited by their parent planet.
- 3) The moon's diameter is just over a quarter the size of the earth's.
- 4) We can see both sides of the moon's surface in sunlight.
- 5) Craters have many large mountains around their rims, 1000's of feet high.
- 6) If something is moonlike, it means it looks relatively like the moon.


**Activity 3:** Match the vocabulary with the correct meaning:

relatively	diameter	phase	barren	solidified	maria
1) Dark and plain area of the moon.		4) Part of a process of something.		5) In relation to something else.	6) Became hard from soft.
2) The size of something.		5) In relation to something else.			
3) Lifeless and empty.		6) Became hard from soft.			