

There is a common expression in the English language referring to a blue moon. When people say that something happens "only once in a blue moon," they mean that it happens only very rarely, once in a great while. This expression has been around for at least a century and a half; there are references to this expression that date from the second half of the nineteenth century. The expression "a blue moon" has come to refer to the second full moon occurring in any given calendar month.