

# Modals in Dutch

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Based on extended Questionnaire for modals by Ella Hannon & Wataru Uegaki  
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“Revised modal questionnaire for cross-linguistic use”)

Language name:	Dutch
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Glottolog:	dutc1256
Consultant demographics:	A speaker of standard Dutch from the South of the Netherlands. They also speak Brabants.
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[Note: In addition, this questionnaire has been reviewed by a native speaker specialist](#)

## BODY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

### A. EPISTEMIC

#### A1 Epistemic Necessity

(1) Ben goes swimming every day. Ben is not obliged or required to go swimming; it is just a habit of his. It is now time for Ben to be swimming... so **Ben must be swimming (right now)**.

*Ben zal aan het zwemmen zijn.*  
Ben **MOD** prep DET swimming be

(2) You know that John goes to school at 9am every day. You look at the clock and see it is 9am, therefore **John must be at school**.

*Jon zal op school zijn.*  
John **MOD** on school be

Comment:

- *Zal* is weaker than *moet*.
- *Moet* is not appropriate in this context, otherwise you'd just say "he is in school"

(3) (Adapted from von Fintel & Gillies 2007). The math teacher says: There are 3 boxes. The ball is in box A or in box B or in box C. It is not in A. It is not in B. So, **it must be in C**.

*Het moet in C zitten.*

It **MOD** in C be

- If you're 100% certain, *moeten* is more appropriate

(4) Tim is calling for his dog. The dog is not coming. Tim looks for the dog in the kitchen, bedroom, living room, (in every room in the house) but the dog is not in any of those rooms. Therefore, Tim concludes that **the dog must not be in the house**.

*De hond moet buiten zijn.*

The dog **MOD** outside be

*De hond kan niet in het huis zijn.*

The dog **MOD NEG** in the house be

*De hond kan niet binnen zijn*

The dog **MOD NEG** inside be

# *de hond moet niet in het huis zijn*

# the dog **MOD NEG** in the house be

Comment:

- *Zal* not appropriate because you've checked every room in the house

Reviewer comment:

- "zal wel" can be used here, giving rise to the inference that the speaker doesn't care that much where the dog is.

## A2 Epistemic Weak Necessity

(5) You know that Ann goes hiking from 7am until 8am every day. Most of the time Ann goes to the lake, but sometimes she goes to the mountains. It is now 7:30am and your friend asks where Ann is. You say to your friend: **Ann should be at the lake right now**.

*Ann zal nu bij het meer zijn.*

Ann **MOD** now near the lake be

Ann *zou bij het meer kunnen zijn.*

Ann **MOD** near the lake **MOD** be

- Latter when you're not sure: "could be there"
- *Zal* more likely to be used when you're more sure that she's at the lake

Reviewer comment:

- Most natural option here: "Ann is waarschijnlijk (probably) bij het meer."

(6) (Imagine that) you used to live in Goa. You are not living in Goa anymore. You notice how different the weather is in the UK, where you live right now. You know that it often rains in Goa, especially in the afternoon, but not necessarily every day. Now it's the afternoon, so you think **it should be raining now in Goa**.

Het *zal aan het regenen zijn in Goa.*

It **MOD** prep it rain.inf be in goa

Reviewer comment: more natural with *zal wel*

(7) When the light is on at Mary's house, it usually means that she is home. You want to visit Mary. You walk past Mary's house and notice that the light is on. You think to yourself: **Mary should be at home**.

Mary is *waarschijnlijk* thuis.

Mary is probably at.home

Mary *zal* thuis zijn.

Mary **MOD** at.home be

Reviewer comment: more natural with *zal wel* (but with an inference of speaker indifference)

Mary *zal waarschijnlijk* thuis zijn

Mary **MOD** probably at.home be

### A3 Epistemic Possibility

(8) The teacher is not consistent. The students never know if he's going to come or not to teach class. Today, it's time to start class and the students are waiting again. **He might be coming to school today**.

Hij komt *misschien* naar school vandaag.

He comes **maybe** to school today

?Hij **zou** naar school **kunnen** komen vandaag.  
 ?He **MOD** to school **MOD** come today

- Comment: This wouldn't be 100% appropriate in this context, because it sounds like you're *half* expecting the teacher not to come. But there is an expectation for teachers to come to class.
- Comment: Variant with just *kunnen* (*Hij kan naar school komen vandaag*) cannot have the targeted meaning (just ability).

(9) Grace is looking for her necklace. She looks in her wardrobe and on top of the wardrobe. It's not there. She looks on top of the TV. It's not there. She looks in her backpack. It's not there. She hasn't checked her sister's wardrobe, yet, but **Grace's necklace might be lost**.

Grace's *ketting* is **misschien** *kwijt*.  
 Grace's necklace is **maybe** lost

Another option offered by the reviewer:

Grace's *ketting* **zou** *kwijt* **kunnen** *zijn*.  
 Grace's necklace **MOD** lost **MOD** be

(10) Charles is looking for his pet cat, but cannot find it. He knows that his cat is very elusive and mysterious. Charles tells his sister:

**The cat may be inside. The cat may also be outside.**<sup>1</sup>

De kat **kan** binnen zijn. De kat **kan** ook buiten zijn.  
 The cat **MOD** inside be. The cat **MOD** also outside be

De kat **zou** binnen **\*(kunnen)** zijn. De kat **zou** ook buiten **kunnen** zijn.  
 The cat **MOD** inside **MOD** be. The cat **MOD** also outside **MOD** be.

De kat is **misschien** binnen. De kat is **misschien** **(\*ook)** buiten.  
 The cat is **maybe** inside. The cat is **maybe** **(\*also)** outside

(11) Daniel lives in London and his friend has recently moved to New York. Daniel's parents told him that he is not allowed to go and see his friend in New York because it is too far away. You heard that Daniel is leaving London next week but you don't know where he will go. Daniel usually does things that he is not permitted to do. You think **Daniel might go to New York**.

Daniel gaat **misschien** naar New York.  
 Daniel goes **maybe** to New York

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<sup>1</sup> (The task is not only to translate these two sentences individually, but to keep in mind the sequencing i.e., these sentences are not to be used in isolation).

*Daniel zou naar New York kunnen gaan.*

Daniel MOD prep New York MOD go

*#Daniel zou naar NY gaan*

Daniel MOD to NY go

## A4 Epistemic Non-necessity

(7') When the light is on at Mary's house, it usually means that she is home. You want to visit Mary. You walk past Mary's house and notice that the light is on. However, there is no car in the driveway. You think to yourself: **Mary may not be at home.**

*Mary is misschien niet thuis.*

Mary is maybe not at.home

*Mary is wellicht niet thuis.*

Mary is possibly NEG at.home

*Mary hoeft niet thuis te zijn*

Mary MOD neg at.home at be

- *Wellicht* not used as often anymore - there is a possibility that she is not at home, possibly
- *kan* would not make sense here

*#Mary moet niet thuis zijn*

Alternative offered by the reviewer:

*Het zou kunnen dat Mary niet thuis is.*

It MOD MOD that Mary not at.home is

Not possible in this context:

*#Mary zou niet thuis kunnen zijn.*

(because the negation can only scope over the weak modal)

## A5 Epistemic impossibility

(1') Ben goes swimming every day. Ben is not obliged or required to go swimming; it is just a habit of his. It is now time for Ben to be swimming... so **Ben can't be at home.**

*Ben zal niet thuis zijn.*

Ben    **MOD**   **NEG**   at-house   be.

? Ben    **kan**    **niet**    thuis            zijn.

? Ben    **MOD**   **NEG**   at-house            be

- Comment: The second example feels a bit too strong in this context

(3') The math teacher says: There are 3 boxes. The ball is in box A or in box B or in box C. We opened box A, and the ball is there. There is only one ball. So, **it can't be in C.**

Het    **kan**    **niet**    in            C            zitten.

It       **MOD**   **neg**    in            C            be

## B. DEONTIC

### B1 Deontic Necessity

(12) In Indonesia, the law states that when you ride a motor bike... **You must wear a helmet.**

Je       **moet**    een       helm    dragen.

You    **MOD**   a           helmet wear

(13) You are going to visit your friend in the hospital. When you enter into the hospital, you stop at the information desk to inquire what room your friend is in. But the woman at the information desk tells you that you can't visit your friend now because it's already 8pm. She says, "I'm sorry, the hospital regulations say that... **Visitors must leave by 6pm.**"

Bezoek       **moet**    weggaan       om       6       uur       [they have to leave by 6pm]

Visitor       **MOD**    leave            at       6       house

Bezoek **moet**    om       6       uur       weg       zijn       [they have to be gone by 6pm]

Visitor **MOD**    at       6       hour       leave       be

### B2 Deontic Weak Necessity

(16) Your friend is having a birthday party. She tells you that she would like it if everyone invited wore formal clothes, but that it is not necessary to wear formal clothes to attend. You think to yourself... **I ought to wear formal clothes** to the party.

Ik       **zou**       nette    kleding aan    **moeten**       doen.

I       **MOD**   neat       clothes prep    **MOD**       do

Comment: *aan .. doen* = wear/put on

(17) Your friend tells you that the rules of the restaurant state that employees must wash their hands after going to the bathroom. You reply to your friend:... **Non-employees ought to wash their hands too!**

*Gasten zouden (eigenlijk) ook hun handen moeten wassen!*  
Guests MOD in.principle also their hands MOD wash

(18) In England, it is recommended that face coverings be worn in stores, but it is not a legal requirement. You plan on going shopping, and you think to yourself... **I ought to wear a face covering.**

*Ik zou een mondkapje moeten dragen.*  
I MOD a mask MOD wear

*Ik moet eigenlijk een mondkapje dragen.*  
I MOD in.principle a mask wear

### B3 Deontic Possibility

(19) The ferris wheel ride is only for children under 12 years of age. Martin is 10 years of age. It is not obligatory for Martin to go on the ride if he doesn't want to, but **Martin may ride the ferris wheel.**

*Martin mag/kan in het reuzenrad.*  
Martin MOD in the ferris-wheel

- Comment: both modals intuitively the same in this context. *Mag* was first volunteered
- Reviewer also prefers *mag*

(20) According to the rules of the hospital, only family members are allowed to enter the patient's room during visiting hours. You came to visit your sister after visiting hours. But the really nice nurse says... **You may enter.**

*Je mag binnenkomen.*  
You MOD enter

- Comment: *kan* would also be possible, but in this situation "mag" would feel more natural.
- Reviewer comment: I agree. *mag wel* is even more natural for me, it makes the sentence more friendly.

(21) You are making plans for tomorrow night to meet up with your friend. Your friend says: **You can stay overnight or you can go home.**

*Je kan blijven slapen of je kan naar huis gaan.*  
 You MOD stay sleep or you MOD prep home go

Comment: This is the consultant's preferred variant

*Je mag blijven slapen maar je ?mag ook naar huis gaan.*  
 You MOD stay sleep but you ... ? MOD also at house go  
 'You can stay overnight. You can also go home.'

*Je mag blijven slapen. Je kan ook naar huis gaan.*  
 You MOD stay sleep. You MOD also prep home go

Comment: This is the reviewer's preferred variant

(22) Alice fell down the stairs and broke her arm a while ago. She hasn't been lifting her baby while her arm was hurt because the baby is heavy. Finally, she has recovered, and she went to the doctor for a final check-up. The doctor gave her permission to lift her baby. But when she got home after her visit to the doctor, Alice found that she is still too weak to lift her baby, although according to the doctor's orders **Alice can lift her baby.**

*Alice mag haar baby optillen.*  
 Alice MOD her baby lift

# kan

(23) Beth's teacher told her class that it was okay to go swimming, but Beth doesn't want to because she has never learnt to swim! However, as far as the teacher's directions are concerned... **Beth can go swimming.**

*Beth mag zwemmen.*  
 Beth MOD swim

## B4 Deontic non-necessity

(16') Your friend is having a birthday party. She tells you that she would like it if everyone invited wore formal clothes, but that it is not necessary to wear formal clothes to attend. You think to yourself... I ought to wear formal clothes to the party, but **I don't have to / needn't wear formal clothes.**

*Ik hoef geen nette kleding te dragen.*  
 I MOD/have no neat clothes to wear



# Ik **moet** geen nette kleding dragen.

Het	is	<b>niet</b>	<b>verplicht</b>	om	nette	kleding te	dragen
It	is	<b>NEG</b>	<b>required</b>	that	neat	clothes to	wear

(18') In England, it is recommended that face coverings be worn in stores, but it is not a legal requirement. You plan on going shopping, and you think to yourself... I ought to wear a face covering, **but I don't have to** / needn't.

Het	<b>moet</b>	<i>niet</i> .
It	<b>MOD</b>	neg

Reviewer's comment: In this case it is important that *moet* is stressed. In that case, negation can take scope over the modal.

Het	<b>hoeft</b>	<i>niet</i> .
It	<b>MOD</b>	neg (more informal)

Het	is	<i>niet</i>	<b>verplicht</b> .
It	is	not	<b>required</b>

## B5 Deontic impossibility

(12') In Indonesia, the law states that when you ride a motor bike you must wear a helmet... **You mustn't ride a motor bike without a helmet.**

Je	<b>moet</b>	<b>niet</b>	<i>zonder helm op</i>	<i>een motor rijden.</i>
You	<b>MOD</b>	<b>neg</b>	without helmet on	a motorbike drive

Je	<b>mag</b>	<b>niet</b>	<i>zonder helm op</i>	<i>een motor rijden.</i>
You	<b>MOD</b>	<b>neg</b>	without helmet on	a motorbike ride

- Comment: *Mag niet* more appropriate for the context.

(13') You are going to visit your friend in the hospital. When you enter into the hospital, you stop at the information desk to inquire what room your friend is in. But the woman at the information desk tells you that you can't visit your friend now because it's already 8pm. She says, "I'm sorry, the hospital regulations say that... **Visitors mustn't stay after 6pm.**"

Bezoekers	<b>mogen</b>	<b>niet</b>	<i>na 6 uur</i>	<i>blijven.</i>
Visitors	<b>MOD</b>	<b>neg</b>	after 6 hour	stay

Bezoekers	<b>moeten</b>	<i>na 6 uur</i>	<i>weg.</i>
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Visitors        **MOD**    after 6        hour    leave

## C. TELEOLOGICAL

### C1 Teleological Necessity

(24) There is only one main road from Location A to Location B... If you go from Location A to Location B, **you have to take this road.**

... **moet je**    *deze weg nemen.*  
... **MOD**    you    this    road    take

[SUBORDINATE CLAUSE]

*Je        moet    deze    weg    nemen*  
You    **MOD**    this    road    take

[INDEPENDENT CLAUSE]

(25) Team A are playing in a tournament. In order to advance... **Team A has to beat Team B.**

*Team    A        moet    Team    B        verslaan.*  
Team    A        **MOD**    Team    B        beat

*Als       Team    A        verder wil    komen, zouden ze    Team    B    \*(moeten)    verslaan.*  
If       Team    A        further want    come, **MOD**    they    TEAM B        **MOD**    beat.

Reviewer comment: *zullen moeten* would be even better than *zouden moeten*

(26) The best pizza in town is sold at Gino's. You have invited your sister for dinner, and you decide to order pizza. You tell your sister: **We have to order from Gino's** to eat the best pizza.

*We       moeten        bij    Gino's bestellen    om    de    beste    pizza    te    eten.*  
We       **MOD**        by    Gino's order        C    the    best    pizza    to    eat

*Als    we    de    beste    pizza    willen    eten,    zouden we    bij    Gino's    moeten    bestellen.*  
If    we    the    best    pizza    want    eat,    **MOD**    we    by    Gino's    **MOD**    order

Reviewer comment: *zullen moeten* would be preferred here as well

### C2 Teleological Weak Necessity

(27) There are different ways to get to the shopping centre. You can go by foot, by bus, or drive yourself. You are not sure how to go. Your friend advises you to get the bus because it is cheaper... To get to the shopping centre, **you should take the bus.**

... *moet* je de bus nemen. [subordinate clause]  
 MOD you the bus take

*Je moet de bus nemen* [independent clause - V2]  
 You MOD the bus take

*Je zou de bus moeten nemen.*  
 You MOD the bus MOD take

Reviewer comment: The last example with *zou ... moeten* does not sound natural, suggested alternative:

*Je kunt het beste de bus nemen.*  
 You MOD the best the bus take

(28) There are 3 ways to get to the seaside: a direct road, taking smaller roads, or a combination. Your friend says that taking the smaller roads is very beautiful. According to him, **you should go via the smaller roads.**

*We moeten via de zijweggetjes gaan.*  
 We MOD via the sideroads.dim go

*Je moet via de zijwegen gaan.*  
 You MOD via the sideroad go

*Je zou via de zijweggetjes moeten gaan.*  
 You MOD via the sideroads.dim MOD go

Alternative suggested by the reviewer:

*Je kan het beste via de zijweggetjes gaan.*  
 You MOD the best via the sideroads.dim go

(29) Your friend wants to buy a new shirt for her job at a reasonable price. There are many nice shops for professional clothes in the area, and you work at one of them and think it offers good prices. You say: **You should go to my shop to buy a new shirt.**

*Je zou naar mijn winkel moeten komen om een shirt te kopen.*  
 You MOD to my shop MOD come C a shirt to buy

Alternative suggested by the reviewer:

*Je kan het beste naar mijn winkel komen.*  
 You MOD the best to my shop come

### C3 Teleological Possibility

#### Target: teleological possibility

(30) There are two different ways to get to the mountains from the city centre. Way 1 is inland and way 2 goes around via the coast. Both take around 7 hours by bus and they are equally beautiful... **You can take way 1.**

*Je        **kan**     route   1        nemen.*  
*You     **MOD**   route   1        take.*

Additional option suggested by the reviewer:

*Je        **zou**     route 1 **kunnen** nemen.*  
*You     **MOD**   route 1 **MOD**   take*

(31) There are two swimming pools in the town with the exact same design and both are an equal distance from your house. You plan to go swimming later on but have no specific desire for which pool to go to. You tell your sister... **We can go to the swimming pool to the west.**

*We        **kunnen**   naar   het   zwembad        in   het   westen        gaan.*  
*We        **MOD**     to     the   swimming.pool   in   the   west        go*

Additional option suggested by the reviewer:

*We        **zouden**   naar   het   zwembad        in het   westen **kunnen** gaan.*  
*We        **MOD**   to     the   swimming.pool in the   west   **MOD**   go*

(32) Your friend wants to buy a new shirt for her job. Since there are many nice shops for professional clothes in the area, you say... **You can go to this boutique.**

*Je        **kan**     naar   deze   boetiek        gaan.*  
*You     **MOD**   to     this   boutique   go*

Additional option suggested by the reviewer:

*Je        **zou**     naar   deze   boetiek **kunnen** gaan.*  
*You     **MOD**   to     this   boutique **MOD**   go*

## C4 Teleological non-necessity

(27') There are different ways to get to the shopping centre. You can go by foot, by bus, or drive yourself. You are not sure how to go. Your friend advises you to get the bus because it is cheaper... To get to the shopping centre, you should take the bus, but **you don't need to / needn't take the bus**.

*Je hoeft de bus niet te nemen.*  
You MOD the bus NEG to take

*#/?je moet de bus niet nemen*

*Het moet niet*

## C5 Teleological impossibility

(24') There is only one main road from Location A to Location B... If you are going from Location A to Location B, **you can't take another road**.

... *kun je geen andere weg nemen.* [SUBORDINATE CLAUSE]  
MOD you no other way take

*Je kunt geen andere weg nemen.* [INDEPENDENT CLAUSE]  
You MOD no other way take

*Je kunt niet een andere weg nemen.*  
You MOD neg a other way take

*Je kan geen andere weg nemen.*  
You MOD no other way take

(25') Team A are playing in a tournament. In order to advance... **Team A can't lose to Team B**.

*Team A kan niet van Team B verliezen.*  
Team A MOD not of Team B to.lose

*Team A mag niet van Team B verliezen.*  
Team A MOD neg of team B to.lose

*Om verder te komen, moet Team A niet van Team B verliezen.*  
If further to come, MOD team A neg of Team B to.lose

*?Team A moet niet van Team B verliezen.*  
Team A MOD neg of Team B to.lose

## D. CIRCUMSTANTIAL

### D1 Circumstantial Necessity

(33) You are on a bus. You have not had a chance to go to the toilet for 4 hours, and your bladder is full. You text your friend... **I have to pee so badly!**

*Ik        moet    zo        nodig   plassen!*  
I        MOD   so        badly   to.pee

(34) In the middle of a conversation, you feel a sneeze coming on... Excuse me! **I have to sneeze.**

*Ik        moet    niezen.*  
I        MOD   to.sneeze

(35') Water is entering a pipe, which has two outputs: the left output and the right output. You block the left output so that **the water must come out from the right output.**

*Het       water   moet   uit       de       rechter uitgang       komen.*  
The       water   MOD   out       the       right   exit       come

### D3 Circumstantial Possibility

(36) Ani came to visit a small island in the Philippines. She noticed that the climate and many of the plants are similar to some places she visited in Indonesia, where *duku* trees grow. The temperature is the same, the rainfall is the same, the types of rocks and the soil are the same. But when she looked around, she didn't find any *duku* trees anywhere. But because the temperature, rainfall, and soil are the same, she thinks that... **duku trees can grow here.**

*Duku   bomen   kunnen   hier   groeien.*  
Duku   trees   MOD   here   grow

*Duku   bomen   zouden   hier   kunnen   groeien.*  
Duku   trees   MOD   here   MOD   grow

*Duku bomen zouden hier moeten kunnen groeien*  
Duku trees   MOD   here   MOD   MOD   grow

(37) Amy was in Italy and learned how to make traditional Italian pasta. Now Amy is back in the country she lives in, and she wants to make traditional pasta, but the right kind of ingredients are not sold where she lives. So, she is unhappy because she wanted to show her parents how to make traditional pasta...

**Amy can make traditional Italian pasta** (but she does not have the ingredients).

Amy **kan** *traditionele Italiaanse pasta maken.*  
 Amy **MOD** traditional Italian pasta to.make

- *Zouden + kan* as a phrase can be used to specify the fact that she doesn't have the means to make the pasta

(38) Ben was in a motorbike accident 3 weeks ago, and he sprained his ankle. Ben is able to walk now. However, the doctor told Ben that he is not allowed to walk until 5 weeks after the accident...

**Ben can walk now.**

Ben **kan** *nu lopen.*  
 Ben **MOD** now walk

Ben **zou** *nu kunnen lopen.*  
 Ben **MOD** now **MOD** walk [slightly less fitting for the context]

(39) Paul is quite old now, but he is still strong. His children are scared he will hurt his back if he does any intense labour, so they told him that he is forbidden to lift heavy things. But one day, his friend Rob asked to help him in the field, because Rob knows Paul is still strong. So when Rob saw a large rock that had to be moved, he asked Paul straightaway for help (but he didn't tell Paul's children!). Rob knew that... **Paul can lift that rock.**

Paul **kan** *die steen tillen.*  
 Paul **MOD** the stone lift

#Paul **mag** *die steen tillen.* [this would be **deontic** case, not circumstantial]

Paul **zou** *die steen kunnen tillen.*  
 Paul **MOD** the stone **MOD** lift

(40) The travel vans have a limit of 13 people by law. But the drivers don't care, and stop for more than 13 people. Also, the vans are bigger than you think... **Travel vans can fit 20 people.**

Bussen **kunnen** *meer dan 20 mensen vervoeren.*  
 Buses **MOD** more than 20 people transport

Comment:

- *Zouden + kunnen* is not licit in this context, because the vans ability to fit more than 13 is not a **hypothetical**.

#### D4. Circumstantial non-necessity

(44) Given the way this volcano has been active in the past 100 years, it is likely but not certain that it will erupt in the next 5 years. **The volcano doesn't have to erupt.**

<i>De</i>	<i>vulkaan</i>	<b>hoeft</b>	<b>niet</b>	<i>(per se)</i>	<i>uit</i>	<i>te</i>	<i>barsten.</i>
The	volcano	<b>MOD</b>	neg	<i>(per se)</i>	out	to	burst

##### Comments:

- Context and the target sentence didn't seem to flow very well for correspondent. This translation is "not too fitting", because *vulkaan* is not animate.
- Adding per se makes it *somewhat* better,
- Secondary context that tentatively targets CNN was a negated form of (33): "*A class is about to go on a school trip by bus, and before they leave the teacher instructs that they all need to have gone to the toilet before getting on board because they won't be stopping for a few hours. Ben, however, has already gone to the toilet - so he says "I don't have to pee".*" This gave **hoeft niet**, too.

Reviewer comment: I'd probably avoid modals in this context and say:

*Het is niet zeker dat ...*  
It is not certain that ...

#### D5. Circumstantial impossibility

(34') Ben was in a motorbike accident 3 weeks ago. He sprained his ankle and is in a lot of pain. **Ben can't walk.**

<i>Ben</i>	<b>kan</b>	<b>niet</b>	<i>lopen.</i>
Ben	<b>MOD</b>	neg	walk

##### Comments:

- *Zouden + kunnen* is not available, because it is known that he is in pain. It's not a hypothetical

(35') Water is entering a pipe, which has two outputs: the left output and the right output. But, you know that the left output is blocked. And the water is coming out from the right output. You say: **the water can't come out from the left output.**

<i>Het</i>	<i>water</i>	<b>kan</b>	<b>niet</b>	<i>uit</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>linker</i>	<i>uitgang</i>	<i>komen.</i>
The	water	<b>MOD</b>	neg	out.of	the	left	output	come



Comments:

- For a context in which you're confident enough that you've made the device work

<i>Het</i>	<i>water</i>	<i><b>zou</b></i>	<i>niet</i>	<i>uit</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>linker</i>	<i>uitgang</i>	<i><b>moeten</b></i>	<i><b>kunnen</b></i>	<i>komen.</i>
The	water	<b>MOD</b>	neg	out.of	the	left	output	<b>MOD</b>	<b>MOD</b>	come

Comments:

- "If it works, then it shouldn't come through"
- If you've not tried to put water through, *zouden* + *kunnen* can work - less confidence
- "Shouldn't be able to"

<i>Het</i>	<i>water</i>	<i><b>zou</b></i>	<i>niet</i>	<i>uit</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>linker</i>	<i>uitgang</i>	<i><b>moeten</b></i>	<i>komen.</i>
The	water	<b>MOD</b>	neg	out.of	the	left	output	<b>MOD</b>	come

Comments:

- "The water shouldn't come out of the left, but we don't know what the outcome will be"
- I.e., "Shouldn't be able to"

<i>Het</i>	<i>water</i>	<i><b>zou</b></i>	<i>niet</i>	<i>uit</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>linker</i>	<i>uitgang</i>	<i><b>kunnen</b></i>	<i>komen.</i>
The	water	<b>MOD</b>	neg	out.of	the	left	output	<b>MOD</b>	come

- This is a purely hypothetical variant, when you're not actively in the process of testing the contraption in the real world.
- "Wouldn't come out of the left"
- Fits well embedded in an if-clause

(36') Ani came to visit a small Caribbean island. She noticed that the climate and many of the plants are very different to the places she visited in Indonesia, where *duku* trees grow. The types of rocks and the soil are different as well. She doesn't know whether or not there are *duku* trees on the island. But because the temperature, rainfall, and soil are so different, she thinks that... ***duku* trees can't grow here.**

<i>Duku</i>	<i>bomen</i>	<i><b>kunnen</b></i>	<i>hier</i>	<i>niet</i>	<i>groeien.</i>
Duku	trees	<b>MOD</b>	here	neg	grow

<i>Duku</i>	<i>bomen</i>	<i><b>kunnen</b></i>	<i>niet</i>	<i>hier</i>	<i>groeien</i>
Duku	trees	<b>MOD</b>	neg	here	grow

<i>Duku</i>	<i>bomen</i>	<i><b>zouden</b></i>	<i>hier</i>	<i>niet</i>	<i><b>kunnen</b></i>	<i>groeien.</i>
Duku	trees	<b>MOD</b>	her	neg	<b>MOD</b>	grow

- This is good in a "textbook"-like context, say where you are comparing differing climates, "*you don't know that Duku trees can grow here unless you try to grow one*" - again, it seems purely hypothetical

## E. BOULETIC

### E1 Bouletic Necessity

**Target: bouletic necessity**

**(42) targets bouletic necessity vs. deontic necessity**

(41) You love handbags. You see a really nice handbag in a window and you say... **I must buy it.**

*Ik moet hem kopen.*  
I MOD handbag buy

*Ik wil hem kopen*  
I MOD/want handbag buy

Comments:

- *Moet* “really want” versus *willen* “want”, same semantic distinction as the inclusion “want” and “must have”

(42) Your friend asks you what you want to do today since it is a holiday and you both are not required to do any tasks today. However, you absolutely want to see this new movie that everyone is talking about- You say... **I must to go to the cinema.**

*Ik moet naar de bioscoop.*  
I MOD to the cinema

*Ik wil naar de bioscoop.*  
I MOD/want to the cinema

(43) A daughter tells her parent... **My friend wants to come visit me.**

*Mijn vriend wil op bezoek komen.*  
My friend MOD/want on visit come

*Een vriend van me wil op bezoek komen.*  
A friend of mine MOD/want on visit come

Table of Dutch Modals:

MODALS	EPISTEMIC	ROOT/NON-EPISTEMIC			
		PARTICIPANT-EXTERNAL		PARTICIPANT-INTERNAL	
	Epistemic	Deontic	Teleological	Circumstantial	Bouletic
Necessity	<i>Zullen (1)</i>    <i>Moeten (1)</i>	<i>Moeten (1)</i>	<i>Moeten (1)</i>    <i>Zouden + Moeten (1)</i>    <i>Zullen (1) + Moeten (1)</i>	<i>Moeten (1)</i>	<i>Moeten (1)</i>    <i>Willen (1)</i>
Weak Necessity	<i>Zullen (1)</i>     <i>Zouden (1) ... Kunnen (1)</i>     <i>Waarschijnlijk (2)</i>    <i>Zullen (1) + waarschijnlijk/ wel (2)</i>	<i>Zouden ... moeten (inf)</i>      <i>Moeten (1) + eigenlijk (2)</i>	<i>Moeten (1)</i>    <i>Zouden + Moeten (1)</i>    <i>Kunnen (1) + het beste</i>	--	
Possibility	<i>Misschien (2)</i>    <i>Waarschijnlijk (2)</i>    <i>Zouden (1) ... kunnen (1)</i>    <i>Kunnen (1)</i>	<i>Mogen (1)</i>      <i>Kunnen (1)</i>	<i>Kunnen (1)</i>     <i>Zouden (1) ... kunnen (1)</i>	<i>Kunnen (1)</i>    <i>Zouden ... Kunnen(1)</i>	
Non-necessity	<i>Misschien (2) niet</i>	<i>Hoeven (1)</i>	<i>Hoeven (1) ... niet</i>	<i>Hoeven (1) ... niet</i>	

	 <i>Wellicht (2)</i> <i>niet</i>    <i>Zouden (1) ...</i> <i>kunnen (1)</i> <i>niet</i>	<i>... niet</i>  <i>Niet +</i> <i>verplicht</i> (2)			
Impossibility	<i>Zullen niet</i>    <i>Kunnen niet</i>	<i>mogen ...</i> <i>niet</i>    <i>Moeten ...</i> <i>niet</i>	<i>kunnen (1) ...</i> <i>niet</i>    <i>mogen... niet</i>	<i>kunnen...niet</i>	

Generally, this elicitation uncovered two word classes capable of expressing modal meaning. The following numbers on the table correspond to the following word classes

- 1) Auxiliary verbs
- 2) Adverbs

Judgement testing for ENN:

- 1) **Het is niet zo dat Mary thuis moet zijn:** comment: "sounds a bit clunky, and I would read it as "Mary doesn't (by law/rule/order of someone else) have to be home, but whether or not she is, is undetermined."
- 2) **Mary zou niet thuis kunnen zijn** - could work, but there is an ambiguity here. It is important that "niet" describes "thuis" rather than the verb, otherwise it means that it is impossible for Mary to be at home.

Suggested sentence from correspondent: "**Mary hoeft niet thuis te zijn**"

