

Modals in Cantonese

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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 (jiga) **jatding** (hai3) jau - gan - soei
Ben (now) definitely (COP) swim - PROG - water

(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**.

John (jiga) **jatding** (hai3) hai2 hok3haau6
John (now) **definitely (COP)** LOC 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**.

Go bo **jatding** hai3 hai2 box C

CLF ball definitely COP LOC box C

Comment:

- Having the copula is preferred, but still optional
- CLF: classifier

(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**.

Zek gou jatding m hai2 gaan uk japmin
CLF dog **definitely** NEG LOC CLF house inside

Zek gou jinggoi m hai2 gaan uk japmin
CLF dog **should** NEG LOC CLF house inside

Comment:

- *Jinggoi* is possible in 1-3 and expresses less certainty (to sound more conservative, potentially).
Jatding is stronger

A2 Epistemic Weak Necessity

Target: epistemic weak necessity vs. deontic weak necessity

(6) is also compatible with testing for epistemic possibility.

(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 jinggoi hai2 go wu dou
Ann should LOC CLF lake place

Comment:

- Copula not preferable here

(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**.

Goa jiga jinggoi lok- gan - ju
Goa now should to.rain/PROG

(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 **jinggoi** hai2 ukkei
 Mary should LOC home

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.**

Koei **jinggoi** lai **ge2**
 3SG should come GE

- (a) #Koei jinggoi lai - more certain that he will be coming in
- (b) #Koei lai ge2 - something like "he's coming, I guess".

Comment:

- Ge2 - sentence final particle that expresses uncertainty

? Koei **jau** **honang** lai
 3sg have possibility come

Comment "Others are assuming that he's not coming, but you want to suggest otherwise"

(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. However, she has not checked two other places. She hasn't checked her sister's wardrobe yet. She hasn't checked the car either. **Grace's necklace might be lost.**

Grace **jinggoi** m gin zo tiu geng-lin
 Grace should NEG see PFT CLF neck-lace

Grace (**jau**) **honang** m gin zo tiu geng-lin
 Grace have possibility NEG see PFT CLF neck-lace

#Grace jinggoi m gin zo tiu geng-lin ge2

Grace **jau** **honang** m gin zo tiu geng-lin **ge2** (ex. but I think otherwise)

Comment: Everyone believes that she has lost her necklace. But you want to suggest otherwise,

(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.¹

<i>Zek</i>	<i>maau</i>	<i>(jau)</i>	<i>honang</i>	<i>hai2</i>	<i>japmin</i> ,	<i>dou</i>	<i>jau</i>	<i>honang</i>	<i>hai</i>	<i>coetmin</i>
Clf	cat	have	possibility	LOC	inside,	also	have	possibility	LOC	outside

#*Zek maau jinggoi hai japmin, dou jinggoi hai coetmin*

- Sounds contradictory to have both together here.
- *Jinggoi* stronger than *jau honang*

#*Zek maau (jau) hongang hai2 japmin ge2, dou jau hongang hai coetmin ge2*

(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.**

<i>Daniel</i>	<i>jinggoi</i>	<i>wui</i>	<i>hoei</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>York</i>
Daniel	should	will	go	New	York

- Comment: I think that he will go

<i>Daniel</i>	<i>jau</i>	<i>hongang</i>	<i>wui</i>	<i>hoei</i>	<i>NY</i>
Daniel	have	possibility	will	goi	NY

- Comment: Also okay. Similar to above, but less certain

#*Daniel jau hongang/jinggoi wui hoei NY ge2....* (but I don't think he'll 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.**

<i>Mary</i>	<i>jau</i>	<i>hongang</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>hai2</i>	<i>ukkei</i>
Mary	have	possibility	not	LOC	home

<i>Mary</i>	<i>jingoi</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>hai</i>	<i>ukkei</i>
Mary	MOD	neg	LOC	house

¹ (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).

#Mary *m sai / soeijiu hai ukkei*

Comment:

- Mary does not *need* to be at home

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 *mou* *honang* *hai* *ukkei*
Ben not.have possibility LOC home
- Comment: Far more certain he isn't at home

Ben *jinggoi m* *hai2* *ukkei*
Ben MOD NEG LOC home
- Comment: Less certain

(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**.

Go *bo* *mou* *honang* *hai2* *box C*
CLF ball not.have possibility LOC box C

Go *bo* *m* *wui* *hai2* *box C*
CLF ball NEG will LOC box C

B. DEONTIC

B1 Deontic Necessity

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

Nei *jatding jiu* *daai* *taukwai*
2SG **definitely** **have.to** wear helmet

- Comment: An emphasis that you're required to. More law-like than...

Nei *jiu* *daai* *taukwai*
2SG have.to wear helmet

(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.**"

Fonghaak luk dim cin (jatding) jiu zau
 Visitor six o'clock before (definitely) mod leave

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.

Ngo wui soeng zoek formal wear
 1SG will want.to wear formal wear

Ngo jinggoi jiu zoek formal wear (ge2...) but I won't
 1SG should mod wear formal wear (GE...)

(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!**

Sikhaak dou jiu sai sau ga!
 Customers also mod wash hand PRT

- [Comment: Something you might say to a friend who's not washed their hands](#)

Sikhaak dou jinggoi sai sau
 Customers also mod wash hand

- [Comment: A more general statement, in line with the intended reading of the target sentence.](#)

#*Sikhaak dou jinggoi jiu sai sau (GE2)*

(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.**

Ngo jinggoi jiu daai hauzaau
 1SG should mod wear face.covering

Ngo jinggoi daai hauzaau
1SG should wear face.covering

- Comment: The second example fits this context a bit better

#*Ngo jiu daai hauzaau*

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 hoji waan motinlun
Martin can play ferris.wheel

(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.**

Nei hoji japlai
1SG MOD enter

Ngo bei nei japlai la
1SG give 2SG enter PRT

- Comment: [SUBJ **bei nei**] is more naturally said to express permission "I'll let you in"

Gaan jijun bei nei jap
CLF hospital give 2SG enter
"The hospital allows you to enter."

(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.
You can stay overnight. You can also go home.

Nei hoji lau hai2 dou fan, nei dou hoji faan ukkei
2SG can stay LOC here sleep, 2SG also can return home

#*Ngo bei nei lau hai2 dou fan,*

- Comment: The second example is pragmatically weird. As if your friend isn't expecting you to offer them a place to stay...Doesn't sound like something you'd say to a friend. **Bei** sounds more authoritative

(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.

<i>Alice</i>	hoji	<i>pou</i>	<i>hei</i>	<i>koei</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>bibi</i>
Alice	MOD	lift	up	3sg	clf	baby

<i>Alice</i>	<i>pou</i>	dak	<i>hei</i>	<i>koei</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>bibi</i>
Alice	lift	ACQUIRE	up	3SG	CLF	baby

<i>Go</i>	<i>jisang</i>	<i>bei</i>	<i>Alice</i>	<i>pou</i>	<i>koei</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>bibi</i>
CLF	doctor	give	Alice	lift	3sg	clf	baby

- Comment: The last example: "The doctor has allowed her" Form used to confer permission

(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.

<i>Beth</i>	hoji	<i>hoei</i>	<i>jausoei</i>
Beth	MOD	go	swimming

Go louis bei Beth hoei jausoei
Clf teacher give Beth go swimming

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.**

<i>Ngo</i>	m	sai	<i>zoek</i>	<i>formal clothes</i>
1SG	NEG	MOD	wear	formal clothes

**Ngo sai zoek formal clothes*

- Comment: *Sai* only occurs with the negation *m*

(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 wear a face covering.**

Ngo m sai daai hauzaau
1sg NEG MOD wear face.mask

Ngo m soeijiu daai hauzaau
1sg NEG MOD wear face.mask

- Comment: Soeijiu - more like *need*, also fine for the previous. Sounds more formal.

#*Ngo m jatding daai hauzaau*

- About likelihood. "It's likely that I won't"

?*Ngo m jiu daai hauzaau*

- "I refuse to wear a face mask"

B5 Deontic impossibility

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

Nei mou daai taukwai zau m hoji za din - daance
2SG not.have wear helmet then NEG MOD drive electronic - bicycle

(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.**"

Fonghaak luk dim hau m hoji lau hai2 dou
Visitor six o'clock after NEG MOD stay LOC here

#*M sai*

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**.

Nei jatding jiu haang ni tiu lou
 2SG definitely MOD walk this CLF road

?*Nei jiu hang ni tiu lou*

- Comment: “You need to take this road” -> as in, someone has recommended it, and not that it is the only choice available. *Jatding* is less optional. You’re emphasizing the fact there is one route with *jatding*

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

Team A (jatding) jiu da jeng Team B sin
 Team A definitely MOD play win Team B first

(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.

Ngo-dei (jatding) jiu hai2 Gino’s dou maai pizza
 1PL (definitely) MOD LOC Gino’s place buy pizza

- Comment: Using *jatding* is more emphatic, also possible

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**.

Nei daap baasi la
 2SG take bus prt

- Comment: Particle *la* used with suggestions. “I suggest you take the bus”

Nei jinggoi daap baasi
 2sg MOD take bus

?*Nei hoji taap baasi (#la)*

- Comment: this suggests that taking the bus is merely one of the options

(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**.

Nei haang siu lou la
2SG walk small road prt

Nei jinggoi haang siu lou
2SG MOD walk small road

(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.

Nei hoji hoei ngo gaan poutau
2SG MOD go 1SG CLF shop

Nei hoei ngo gaan poutau la
2SG go 1SG clf shop prt

- Comment:
 - the second example is also possible as a suggestion
 - *Jinggoi* would be pragmatically a bit odd here (impolite to strongly suggest to go to your own shop)

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**.

Nei hoji haang way 1
2sg mod walk way 1

(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**.

Ngodei hoji hoei sai min go go wingci
1pl MOD go west side that clf swimming.pool

- Comment: *Jinggoi* is a stronger suggestion, confers a preference potentially

(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.**

Hoji

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.**

<i>Nei</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>jatding</i>	<i>jiu</i>	<i>daap</i>	<i>baasi</i>
2SG	NEG	definitely	MOD	take	bus

?*Nei m jatding daap baasi*

- This is more about likelihood ("You're not likely to take the bus"), not suggestion

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.**

<i>Nei</i>	<i>mou</i>	<i>ling</i>	<i>jat</i>	<i>tiu</i>	<i>lou</i>	<i>hoji</i>	<i>haang</i>
2SG	not.have	other	one	clf	road	mod	walk

?*Nei m hoji haang ling jat tui lou*

- Comment: more "indirect" (maybe suggests that there is another road that you can't take)

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

<i>Team A m</i>	<i>hoji</i>	<i>syu</i>	<i>bei</i>	<i>Team B</i>
Team A NEG	MOD	lose	give	Team B

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!**

Ngo *hou* *soeijiu* *hoei* *ciso*

1SG very need go toilet

?Ngo **jiu** *hoei ciso*

- Comment: the latter example sounds like “I need to go to the bathroom”, not really “I have to”. More neutral situation, ... excuse me.

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

Ngo **jiu** da *hatci*
1SG MOD do sneeze

Ngo **soeijiu** da *hatci*
1SG MOD do sneeze

- Comment: The latter slightly more formal

(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**.

Di soei **zi** **hoji** hai2 jau bin *coet*
Clf water **only** **MOD** LOC right side exit
“The water can only come out from the right”

#Di soei **jiu** hai2 jau bin coet

#Di soei **soeijiu** hai2 jau bin coet

*Di soei **hoji** hai2 jau bin coet

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 trees **jinggoi hoji** hai2 ni dou *sangzoeng*
Duku trees **mod mod** LOC this place grow

- Comment: Interpretation “In theory **it can grow here**, *but in practice they probably won’t*” / “In theory **it can grow here** - but the in practise *it’s unknown*”

?Duku trees **jinggoi** hai2 ni dou sangzoeng

- Possible interpretation: “Duku Trees should be grown here, if you want to make the environment better...”

Duku	trees	hoji	hai2	ni	dou	sangzoeng
Duku	trees	MOD	loc	this	place	grow

Comment:

- Also possible if duku trees actually grow here
- Lacks counterfactuality

Duku	trees	hai2	ni	dou6	sangzoeng	dou2
Duku	trees	LOC	this	place	grow	able

Duku	trees	hai2	ni	dou6	jinggoi	sangzoeng	dou2
Duku	trees	LOC	this	place	MOD	grow	able

*Duku trees sangzoeng dou hai2 ni dou

(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	sik	zing	cyuntong	jidaailei	pasta
Amy	know	make	traditional	Italian	pasta

Amy	jinggoi	zing	dou	cyuntong	jidaailei	pasta
Amy	mod	make	able	traditional	Italian	pasta

- Comment: There is a counterfactual implicature - in theory she can, but in practise we don’t know [for any reason]

Amy	zing	dou	cyuntong	jidaailei	pasta	(ge2 ... embedded clause]
Amy	make	able	traditional	italian	pasta	(GE ... embedded clause)

- Comment: She has the ability to do this. This example sounds better in the context than the previous one.

(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 jiga haang dou2
Ben now walk able

(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 lik dak hei gau sek
Paul lift get up clf rock

- [Comment: Possible even if Paul never actually lifts/lifted the rock](#)

*Paul lik dou (*hei) gau sek*
Paul lift able (*up) clf rock

(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.**

Travel vans zoei dou jisap jan
Travel vans carry able twenty person

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.**

Go fosaan m jatding wui baaufaat
Clf volcano NEG definitely will erupt

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.**

Ben haang m dou
Ben walk NEG able

#Ben mou dak haang

- Comment: Okay if followed by something like... because there isn't a road for him to do so.
Participant external

Ben *m* *hoji* *haang*

Ben NEG MOD walk

Comment:

- Natural reading would be expressing something like "I don't want Ben to walk, he's not allowed to walk, etc."
- But can be felicitous to describe incapability

(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.**

Di *soei* *mou* *dak* *hai2* *zo* *bin* *coet*
Clf water not.have able LOC left side exit

Di *soei* *coet* *m* *dou*
Clf water exist NEG MOD

Comments:

- *Mou dak* - preverbal
- *M dou* - postverbal
- *Mou* - negative existential, *m* is just negation
- Interchangeable in this context
- Paraphrase for the first example above (*mou dak*): "there is not a chance that..."

?*di soei hai zo bin coet m dou*

- Comment: Sounds a bit clumsy

(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.**

Duku *trees* *hai2* *dou6* *sangzoeng* *m* *dou*
Duku trees LOC place grow NEG MOD

Duku *trees* *m* *hoji* *hai2* *dou* *sangzoeng*.
Duku trees NEG MOD LOC place grow

Comments:

- These two are interchangeable

#Duku trees **mou dak** hai2 dou6 sangzoeng

Comments:

- *Mou dak* - they're not allowed to be grown here
- Not coercible to the circumstantial like *m hoji*

6E. BOULETIC

E1 Bouletic Necessity

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

Ngo jatding wui maai
1sg definitely will buy

- Comment: Future expression "Certainty you will do the event"

Mou dak m maai
Not.have MOD neg buy

Comment:

- This one is Preferable.
- Literally: "I **don't have the ability not to buy**"

Ngo jatding jiu maai
1sg definitely MOD buy

Comment:

- Also okay
- Sounds like something a child would say during a tantrum.
- Slightly hyperbolic?

Ngo soeng maai
1sg want buy

Comment:

- Quite neutral. I want to buy it

(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 go to the cinema.**

Ngo wui hoei heijyun
1sg will go cinema

*Ngo wui **soeng** hoei heijyun*
1sg will WANT go cinema

*Ngo **jatding** **jiu** tai tou hei*
1sg definitely MOD watch clf movie

- Comment: Could be used in an argument between two people. Trying to convince the other person to see the film? Also applies to the handbag example

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

*Ngo di pangjau **soeng** lai taam ngo*
1sg clf friend want come visit me

Table of Cantonese Modals:

MODALS	EPISTEMIC	ROOT/NON-EPISTEMIC			
		PARTICIPANT-EXTERNAL		PARTICIPANT-INTERNAL	
	<u>Epistemic</u>	<u>Deontic</u>	<u>Teleological</u>	<u>Circumstantial</u>	<u>Bouletic</u>
Necessity	Jatding	(Jatding) jiu	(Jatding) jiu	Soeijiu	Jatding wui
				Jiu	Mou dak m
					Jatding jiu
					Soeng
Weak Necessity	Jinggoi	Jinngoi	Jinngoi	...	n/a

		jiu	la Hoji		
Possibility	Jinggoi...ge2 (Jau) honang	Hoji X bei Y	Hoji	Hoji (jinggoi) hoji (jinggoi) ... dou (Jinggoi v dou) Dak	n/a
Non-necessit y	Jinggoi m Jau honang m	M sai M soeijiu	M jatding jiu	M jatding	
Impossibility	Mou honang M wui	M hoji	M hoji	M dou M hoji Mou dak	

References:

Matthews, S., & Yip, V. (2013). *Cantonese: A comprehensive grammar*. Routledge.