

# Modals in Greek

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“Revised modal questionnaire for cross-linguistic use”)

Language name:	Modern Greek
ISO 639-3:	ell
Glottolog:	mode1248
Consultant demographics:	A female speaker of standard Greek. She has ties to the Crete dialect.
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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

**Target: epistemic vs. deontic necessity.**

**(3) and (4) target only 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).**

*O Ben prepi na kolympái.*  
det Ben MOD subj swim

*O Ben tha prepi na kolympai.*  
det Ben MOD MOD subj swim

(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.**

*O John prepi na einai sto sholeio.*  
 det John MOD subj be prep school.

*O John tha prepi na einai sto sholeio.*  
 det John MOD MOD subj be prep school.

- Less likely to use *tha* in this context, because we're more sure than context 1. (possibility marker, *tha*)
- Correspondent comments that it is hard to see a semantic difference between the two
- *sto* = locative preposition (this is preposition *se* + definite article (to), "to-the")

(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**.

*Prepi na einai sto C.*  
 MOD subj be prep C

- Doesn't sound strange to use *tha*, but is less preferable to just the modal particle

Reviewer's comment:

- In all these contexts you can use just the future particle *tha* without *prepi*, as an epistemic modal

(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**.

*O skilos den prepi na einai sto spiti.*  
 det dog neg MOD subj be prep house

- Strange to use *tha* here - from the context: the dog is not in the house, not the possibility that dog is in the house.

Reviewer's comment:

- Agree with the comment above, but again you can use plain *tha* as a modal, it's probably the best option.

## 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.**

*I Ann mpori na einai sti limni tora.*  
 det Ann MOD subj be prep lake now

*#I Ann prepi na einai sti limni tora.*  
 det Ann MOD subj be prep lake now

- *Prepei* not usable because there is some sort of lack of certainty
- *Mporei* -> possible she's at the lake, but also that she's at the mountain

(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.**

*Mpori na vrehei tora sti Goa.*  
 MOD subj rain now prep Goa

*#Prepi na verhei tora sti Goa.*  
 MOD subj rain now prep Goa

- *Tha* refers to the future, not usable with *mpori* here.
- *Prepi* - strange, because "it's not necessary that it is raining in Goa"

(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.**

*I Mary prepi na einai sto spiti.*  
 det Mary MOD subj be prep house

*I Mary mpori na einai sto spiti.*  
 det Mary MOD subj be prep house

- *Prepi* better here, because it is more certain that Mary is home.
- *Mpori* is usable too, if less certain.

### A3 Epistemic Possibility

**Target: epistemic possibility vs. epistemic necessity**

**(11) targets epistemic possibility vs. deontic 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.**

*Mpori na erthi sto sholio simera.*  
**MOD** subj come prep school today

# *Tha mpori na erthi sto sholeio simera.*  
**MOD MOD** subj come prep school today

- The *tha* variant is usable if referring to “tomorrow”, for instance.

\* *Prepi na erthi sto sholeio simera.*  
**MOD** subj come prep school today

*Isos na erthi sto sholeio simera.*

- Another way to express *mpori na*

(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.**

*To kolie tis Grace mpori na ehi hathi.*  
 det necklace gen Grace **MOD** subj be lost

*To kolie tis Grace prepi na ehi hathi.*  
 det necklace gen Grace **MOD** subj be lost

- After clarification that the status of the *lostness* is unknown, *mpori* was preferred.

*To kolie tis Grace isos na ehi hathi.*

(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>**

*I gata mpori na einai mesa. I gata mpori episis na einai ekso.*  
 det cat **MOD** subj be inside. det cat **MOD** also be outside also

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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).

- This can be used when there are two scenarios that are equally possible.

*I gata prepi na einai mesa. #I gata prepi episis na einai ekso.*  
 det cat MOD subj be inside. det cat MOD also be outside also

- First conjunct fine, second not. Because *prepi* is more certain, not likely to have two likely scenarios... etc.

(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**.

*O Daniel mpori na paei sti Nea Iorki.*  
 det Daniel MOD subj go prep New York.

*#O Daniel prepi na paei sti Nea Iorki.*  
 det Daniel MOD subj go prep New York

- *Prepi* means that he's obliged to go there, rather than making his own personal choice.
- General comment: *na* is compulsory. [MOD [\*(NA) V]

#### 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 den prepi na einai sto spiti.*  
 det Mary neg MOD subj be at home

*#I Mary den mpori na einai sto spiti.*  
 det Mary neg MOD subj be at home

Most faithful translation to the English example according to the reviewer:

*I Mary mpori na min ine sto spiti.*  
 Det Mary MOD subj not be at home

(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 not be at home**.

*I gata den prepi na einai sto spiti.*  
 det cat neg MOD subj be prep home

- It is not necessary that the cat is not at home.
- Could be the case that cat is at home

Another alternative suggested by the reviewer:

*I gata mpori na min ine sto spiti.*  
det cat MOD subj not be at home

*I gata den mpori na einai sto spiti.*  
det cat neg MOD subj be prep home

- Could say it, but it's more strange. Because there is an *ability ambiguity* (circumstantial possibility)
- Intonation is very important to make epistemic reading more available
- Without *den* - ability reading

## 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**.

*O Ben den prepi na einai sto spiti.*  
det Ben neg MOD subj be at home

*O Ben den mpori na einai sto spiti.*  
det Ben neg MOD subj be at home

- First reading is possibly circumstantial reading (not able to), as a possible reading.
  - Could also be used to say that "it's not possible". But this requires a bit of introspection
- the inability reading is the first thing that comes to mind

(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**.

*I mpala den mpori na einai sto C.*  
det ball neg MOD subj be prep C

*#I mpala den prepi na einai sto C.*  
det ball neg MOD subj be prep C

- *den prepi* makes it possible that the ball could be in C.

Comment from the reviewer:

- *den prepi* is indeed weaker than *den mpori*, but still it expresses that it is highly unlikely

## B. DEONTIC

### B1 Deontic Necessity

**Target: deontic necessity**

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

*Prepi na foras kranos.*  
**MOD** subj wear helmet

# *Mporis na foras kranos.*  
**MOD.2sg** subj wear helmet

- Doesn't mean that it is necessary. "If you don't want to, don't wear one" - doesn't enforce the rule.

Modified context: In Indonesia, the law states that when you ride a motor bike... I think to myself "**I need to wear a helmet.**"

*Hriazete na foraw kranos.*  
**MOD** subj 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.**"

*Oi episkeptes prepi na figun mechri tis 6.*  
det visitors **MOD** subj leave.3rd prep det 6

*Oi episkeptes tha prepi na figun mehri tis 6.*  
det visitors **MOD MOD** subj leave.3rd prep det 6

- Latter is the same. Doesn't affect necessity - but perhaps less strict not a register difference

## B2 Deontic Weak Necessity

### Target: 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.**

*Prepi na foraw episima rouha sto party.*  
**MOD** subj wear formal clothes prep party

- #*Mporo* -> indicates that there's one possibility among others.

Reviewer comment:

- “*tha eprepe*” would also be possible here

(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!**

*Oi mi - ergazomenoi prepi na plenoun ta heria tus episis.*  
det non - employees **MOD** subj wash det hands their too

- *Mporei* -> not the best.
  - It means that they have this possibility, they *could* wash their hands. No necessity reading.

Reviewer comment:

- “*tha eprepe*” would also be possible here

(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.**

*Prepi na foraw mia - maska.*  
**MOD** subj wear face - covering

- “It’s good for me that I wear a face covering”
- #*Mporei* -> I can wear a mask, but I don’t have to if I don’t want to. **I am able to do so.**

# *Hriazete na foraw mia - maska.*  
**MOD** subj wear face - covering

- “It is better for me that...” not really expressing “It is recommend to do so”



### B3 Deontic Possibility

**Target: deontic possibility vs. deontic necessity**

**(22) and (23) target deontic possibility vs. circumstantial 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.**

*O Martin mpori na mpei ston troho.*  
det Martin MOD subj ride the wheel

# *O Martin prepi na mpei ston troho.*  
Det Martin MOD subj ride the wheel

- It's necessary to ride the ferris wheel. Not the right reading.

# *O Martin isos na mpei ston troho.*

- Maybe he will ride it, maybe he will not - we don't know.

(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.**

*Mporis na mpeis.*  
MOD.2sg subj 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.**

*Mporis na minis to vradi h mporis na pas spiti.*  
MOD.2sg subj stay det night or MOD.2sg subj go home

*Mporis na minis to vradi. Mporis episis na pas spiti.*  
MOD.2sg subj stay det night. MOD.2sg also subj go home

(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 mpori na sikwsei to moro tis.*  
 det Alice MOD subj lift the baby her

# *H Alice isos na sikwsei to mwro.*

- Maybe she'll do it, maybe she'll not. Not natural

(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 mpori na pai gia kolimpi.*  
 det Beth MOD subj go prep 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.**

*Den prepi na foreso episima ruha.*  
 neg MOD subj wear formal clothes

*Den hriazete na foresw episima ruha.*  
 neg MOD subj wear formal clothes

- *Den hriazete* - "need not wear"

The reviewer prefers the second sentence over the first (but both are okay).

(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.**

den hriazete  
 neg MOD

- Inflected from *hreiázomai* - "to need".

den prepi  
 neg MOD

## 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.**

Den    *prepi*    na    odigas    mihani    horis    kranos.  
neg    MOD    subj    drive    motorbike    without    helmet

Den    *mporis*    na    odigas    mihani    horis    kranos.  
neg    MOD.2sg    subj    drive    motorbike    without    helmet

- *Prepi* far more strong. It is necessary
- *Mporis* is possible too, less intensely stipulated. These two units can be interchangeable in some contexts

(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.**"

Oi    episkeptes    den    *mporoun*    na    menoun    meta    tis    6.  
det    visitors    neg    MOD.3pl    subj    stay    prep    det    6

Oi    episkeptes    den    *prepi*    na    menoun    meta    tis    6.  
det    visitors    neg    MOD    subj    stay    prep    det    6

- Can't find a difference here

## C. TELEOLOGICAL

### C1 Teleological Necessity

**Target: 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.**

*Prepi*    na    pareis    afto    to    dromo.  
MOD    subj    take    this    det    road

- Because there's only one way, no use of *mpori*

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

*I omada A prepi na kerdisei tin omada B.*  
det team A MOD subj win det team B

- No *mpori* found here

(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.

*Prepi na paragiloume apo to Gino ja na fame tin kaliteri pizza.*  
MOD subj order from det Gino ? subj eat det best pizza

- *Mpori* - could be used, but not common in this sort of example. But would have the same meaning

## C2 Teleological Weak Necessity

**Target: 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.**

*...mporis na pareis to leoforeio.*  
...MOD.2sg subj take det bus

Reviewer comment:

- *tha eprepe* would also be possible here

(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.**

*...prepi na pas apo ton mikrotero dromo.*  
...MOD subj go via det smaller road

- *mporeis* - doesn't express that my friend proposes to follow this road
- After a follow up set of questions highlighting the choice, "*In these contexts I have a preference for prepei just because it's stronger.*"

Reviewer comment:

- *tha eprepe* would also be possible here

(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.

*Prepi*    *na*        *pas*   *sto*    *magazi mu*    *gia*    *na*    *agorasis mia*    *kenurja bluza*.  
**MOD**   subj        go    prep    shop   mine   for    to        buy.2    det    new    shirt

*Tha*    *mporouses*        *pas*    *sto*    *magazi mu*    *gia*    *na*    *agorasis*    *mia*    *kenurja bluza*.  
**MOD**   **MOD.2**            go    to        shop   mine   for    to    buy.2    det    new    shirt

- *Mporouses* - more like proposing something. Much weaker. For context, probably less likely
- *Prepi* - more like strict. Stronger opinion. Better if we prefer one of a few options

### 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.**

*Mporis*                *na*        *pareis*   *ton*        *dromo*   *1*.  
**MOD.2sg**        subj        take    det        way    1

# *prepi*

(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.**

*Mporoume*        *na*        *pame*   *stin*        *pisina*   *ditika*.  
**MOD.1pl**        subj        go.1pl   prep    pool    west

# *prepi*

(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.**

*Mporis*                *na*        *pas*        *se*        *aftin*    *tin*        *boutique*.  
**MOD.2sg**        subj        go        prep    this    det        boutique

# *prepi*

- *Prepi* doesn't express the possibility meaning - this expresses one preference for one thing

## 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**.

Den    **prepi**    na    pareis    to    leoforio.  
neg    **MOD**    subj    take    det    bus

- *Mpori* not ungrammatical, but it would mean that aren't able to take the bus

The reviewer would prefer *den hriazete*.

## 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**.

Den    **mporis**    na    pareis    allo    dromo.  
neg    **MOD.2sg**    subj    take    another    road

- There is not another option.

? Den **prepei** na paris allo dromo.

- Fine with *prepi*, because there's no other option. Subtle difference
- ... because you will get lost. But implies that there is another route

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

I        omada A        den    **prepi**    na    hasei    apo    tin    omada B.  
det    Team A        neg    **MOD**    subj    lose    to    det    team B

# I omada A **den mpori** na hasei apo tin omada B.

- Team A is going to win, for sure. Because they're unable to lose

## D. CIRCUMSTANTIAL

### D1 Circumstantial Necessity

Target: circumstantial necessity; (35) with inanimate subject

(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!**

*Prepi na pao stin toualeta epeigontos!*  
**MOD** subj go to toilet urgently!

# *Mporo na paw stin touleta ...*

**MOD.1sg** pee

- “I am able to”. Different reading, so it’s not used here.

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

*Prepi na ftarnisto.*  
**MOD** subj 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.**

*To nero prepi na vgei eksw apo ta deksia.*  
 det water **MOD** subj come.out out from det right

- This is not overly natural, more natural translation...

*To nero tha vgenei eksw mono apo ta deksia.*  
 det water **MOD** come.out from only from det right

- the water **will** only come out ...
- # *mpori* - not applicable, because it could come out of the other output

### D3 Circumstantial Possibility

**Target: (36) & (37) circumstantial possibility vs. epistemic possibility**

**(38) circumstantial possibility**

**(39) & (40) circumstantial possibility vs. deontic 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.**

*Ta dentra duku mporoun na megalosoun edw.*  
 det trees duku **MOD.3pl** subj grow here

- #prepi - they HAVE to grow here [deontic]

(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).

*I Amy mpori na ftiaksei paradosiaka italika zimarika.*  
 det Amy MOD.3 subj make traditional Italian pasta

- Ability to make the pasta

#I Amy prepi na ftiaksei paradosiaka italika zimarika.

- Obligated to make pasta. Irrelevant for the context

(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.**

*O Ben mpori na perpatisi tora.*  
 det Ben MOD.3sg subj walk now

(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.**

*O Paul mpori na sikosi afti tin petra.*  
 det Paul MOD.3sg subj lift fem det stone

(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.**

**Mporoun**

- Also means that it's legal, or allowed [ambiguity with deontic]

#### 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.**

*Den eine aparetito oti to ifestio tha ekragei.*  
 neg is necessary that the volcano will erupt



- *den prepei* - “it is not necessary” ... because the city will be destroyed for example. (participant-external) deontic use.

# *den mpori*

- Unable to erupt.

Reviewer suggests it might be fine if “*mpori*” is followed by negation:

*To ifestio mpori na min ekragi.*

## 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>O</i>	<i>Ben</i>	<i>den</i>	<i>mpori</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>perpatisi.</i>
det	Ben	neg	MOD	subj	walking

(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>To</i>	<i>nero</i>	<i>den</i>	<i>mpori</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>vgei</i>	<i>apo</i>	<i>tin</i>	<i>aristeri</i>	<i>eksodo.</i>
det	water	neg	MOD	subj	come.out	from	det	left	exit

(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>Ta</i>	<i>dentra</i>	<i>duku</i>	<i>den</i>	<i>mporoun</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>megalosoun</i>	<i>edo.</i>
det	trees	duku	neg	MOD.3pl	subj	grow.3pl	here

- *den prepi* would have a deontic impossibility reading here

## 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.**

**Prepi**   *na*   *tin*   *agorasw.*  
**MOD**   subj   it   buy

**Thelo**   *na*   *tin*   *agorasw.*  
**MOD.1sg**   subj   it   buy

- *mpori* - circumstantial “am able to buy it”
- *prepi* is stronger than *theli*

(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.**

**Prepi**   *na*   *paw*   *sto*   *cinema.*  
**MOD**   go   prep   det   cinema

**Thelo**   *na*   *paw*   *sto*   *cinema.*  
**MOD.1sg**   subj   prep   det   cinema

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

*O*   *filos*   *mou*   **theli**   *na*   *erthi*   *na*   *me*   *episkefti.*  
det   fried   mine   **MOD**   subj   come   to   me   visit

- *Prepi*, [must] come

Table of Greek Modals:

MODALS	EPISTEMIC	ROOT/NON-EPISTEMIC			
		PARTICIPANT-EXTERNAL		PARTICIPANT-INTERNAL	
		<u>Deontic</u>	<u>Teleological</u>	<u>Circumstantial</u>	<u>Bouletic</u>
<b>Necessity</b>	(Tha) Prepi <u>Tha</u>	(Tha) Prepi Hriazete	Prepi	Prepi	Prepi Theli
<b>Weak Necessity</b>	Mpori Prepi	Prepi <u>Tha eprepre<sup>1</sup></u>	Prepi <u>Tha eprepre<sup>1</sup></u> (Tha) Mpori	...	n/a
<b>Possibility</b>	Mpori Isos na	Mpori	Mpori	Mpori	n/a
<b>Non-necessity</b>	Den prepi Den mpori	Den prepi Den hriazete	Den prepi	Den eine aparetito	
<b>Impossibility</b>	Den prepi Den mpori	Den prepi Den mpori	Den prepi Den mpori	Den mpori	

1 see Von Fintel, K., & Iatridou, S. (2008). How to say ought in foreign: The composition of weak necessity modals. *Time and modality*, 115-141.

