

Difference between no and not

We can make a word, expression or clause negative by putting not before it.

I do not intend to resign.

Ask James, not his wife.

Not surprisingly, they got divorced within a couple of months.

You can come tomorrow, but not on Friday.

No is used in a different way. It is used with a noun or an -ing form to mean 'not any'.

No students joined the program. (= There weren't any students who joined the program.)

No man is perfect. (= There aren't any perfect men.)

She has got no children. (= She hasn't got any children.)

I have got no money to buy food. (= I haven't got any money to buy food.)

In some cases the structures verb + not and no + noun can have similar meanings.

There wasn't any reply. = There was no reply.

Exercise

Complete the following sentences not or no.

1. We have money. (no / not)
2. It is true. (not / no)
3. He is stupid. (no / not)
4. Now you see me, now you do (not / no)
5. She has got friends. (not / no)
6. She has got any money. (not / no)

Answers

1. We have no money.

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2. It is not true.
3. He is no stupid.
4. Now you see me, now you do not.
5. She has got no friends.
6. She has not got any money.