



No or not?

No

1. We use 'no' to reply to a question.
 - A: Are you coming to the party? B: No.
 - A: Did she go home? B: No, she's over there.
2. We use 'no' before a noun. We don't use 'a / an / the'. It means 'not any'.
 - There is no bread left.
 - She has no money.
3. We use 'no' before a noun that has an adjective but no article.
 - There are no small sandwiches.
 - No young people went to the meeting.
4. We use 'no' before a gerund
 - No smoking!
 - No fishing!

We can't use 'not' and 'no' together in standard English. It's possible in some dialects of English but it is not traditionally correct.

- We have no friends.
- NOT: ~~We don't have no friends.~~

No and not any

No = not any (though 'no' is a little stronger)

- There is no bread.
- There isn't any bread.

We don't use 'no' with 'any'.

- NOT: ~~There is no any bread.~~



Not

We use 'not' in almost every other situation. Sometimes we shorten it to 'n't'.

1. It's used to make a verb negative.
 - She does not want to go.
 - We didn't find the money.
2. It's used with an adjective without a noun.
 - That is not okay.
 - A: How is your brother? B: Not well.
3. It's used with an adverb.
 - Not surprisingly, it was dark when we left.
4. It's used with any / much / many / enough
 - A: Do you like coffee? B: Not much.
 - NOT: A: ~~Do you like coffee?~~ B: ~~No much.~~
 - A: How many books do you have? B: Not enough!
 - NOT: ~~How many books do you have?~~ B: ~~No enough!~~
 - Not many people came to the meeting.
 - NOT: ~~No many people came to the meeting.~~
5. It's used with nouns that have 'a / an / the'.
 - There is not a cat in the garden.
 - OR: There is no cat in the garden.
 - NOT: ~~There is no a cat in the garden.~~
 - A: Who went to the meeting? B: Not the students.
 - OR: A: Who went to the meeting? B: No students.
 - NOT: A: ~~Who went to the meeting?~~ B: ~~No the students.~~



6. We use 'not' before a pronoun or noun in short replies.

- A: Who ate the chocolate? B: Not me.
- A: Who went to the party? B: Not Luke.
- A: Who is going to pay for this? B: Not you.

No good

Exception: we can use either 'no' or 'not' with 'good'.

- It's no good = this is a fixed expression that means that it's not useful or interesting.
- It's not good = this is the normal negative.