REGLE DE L' ANGLAIS : NO + SINGULIER OU PLURIEL ?
DOCUMENT A L'ATTENTION DES ENSEIGNANTS

Règles principales:
- Si le nom qui accompagne «no» est dénombrable, alors ce nom est sauf exception au pluriel.
     exemple: I have got no friends. My neighbour has got no sisters.
- Si le nom qui accompagne «no» n'est pas dénombrable, ou si ce nom désigne un élément en général présent en un seul exemplaire, alors ce nom est sauf exception au singulier.
     exemple : He could find no water.
     This monster has got no nose !

Les différents cas, dans le détail:
(source : http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/learnit/learnitv354.shtml)

zero = not any
With countable nouns, **zero** is **always** followed by plural nouns. With uncountable nouns, the singular form is used. Compare the following:
Zero degrees centigrade is the same as 32 degrees fahrenheit.
We are likely to see zero growth on the stock market this year.
We are not likely to see any growth on the stock market this year.

no = not a / not any
With countable nouns, **no** is **normally** followed by plural forms. It sounds more natural and makes better sense to say:
It was early December and there were no leaves on the trees.
No dogs, unless they are on a lead, are allowed in the flower garden.
No road accidents were reported in Chelsea throughout August.
than:
It was early December and there was no leaf on the trees.
No dog, unless it is on a lead, is allowed in the flower garden.
No road accident was reported in Chelsea throughout August.

Sometimes, **no** may be followed by singular or plural nouns, depending on whether one is thinking of one or more than one:
It was 9 a.m., yet there was no policeman on duty outside the embassy.
It was 9 a.m., yet there were no policemen on duty outside the embassy.

In the Premiership last Saturday, no players were sent off.
In the Premiership last Saturday, no player was sent off.
In the Premiership last Saturday, not a single player was sent off.

Sometimes, it is more natural to combine singular and plural use:
He must lead a lonely life in that village: he has no wife and no children.
(A man normally has one wife, but often has more than one child!)

no = emphatic use
Note that we tend to use **no**, rather than **not a** or **not any** when we want to emphasise a negative idea.
In the lonely man example above, **no** is more effective than **not a / not any**. Compare:
He must lead a lonely life: he doesn't have a wife and he doesn't have any children.

With subject nouns, when **no** is used emphatically, **not a / not any** are not possible:
No politician tells the truth all the time.
No writer has won the Booker prize more than once.
Note that singular use sounds more natural in these examples.

no collocations
There are a number of common nouns that normally combine with **no**, rather than **not a** or **not any**.
Most of them are uncountable and include **no amount, no time, no idea, no doubt, no reason, no need, no evidence, no problem, no way, no point, no use**.

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