

The Gambler – Kenny Rogers

V1: On a [D] warm summer's evenin' on a [G] train bound for [D] nowhere,
I met up with the gambler; we were both too tired to [A] sleep.
So [D] we took turns a starin' out the [G] window at the [D] darkness
'til [G] boredom over [D] took us, and [A] he began to [D] speak.

V2: He said, [D] "Son, I've made a life out of [G] readin' people's [D] faces,
and knowin' what their cards were by the way they held their [A] eyes.
And if [D] you don't mind my sayin', I can [G] see you're out of [D] aces.
For a [G] taste of your [D] whiskey I'll [A] give you some ad-[D]-vice."

V3: So I [D] handed him my bottle and he [G] drank down my last [D] swallow.
Then he bummed a cigarette and asked me for a [A] light.
And the [D] night got deathly quiet, and his [G] face lost all ex [D] pression. Said,
"If you're [G] gonna play the [D] game, boy, ya gotta [A] learn to play it [D] right.

Ch1: You got to [D] know when to hold 'em, [G] know when to [D] fold 'em,
[G] know when to [D] walk away and know when to [A] run.
You never [D] count your [D] money when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table.
There'll be [D] time enough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D] done.

V4: [D] Ev'ry gambler knows that the [G] secret to surv [D] ivin'
is knowin' what to throw away and knowing what to [A] keep.
'Cause [D] ev'ry hand's a winner and [G] ev'ry hand's a [D] loser,
and the [G] best that you can [D] hope for is to [A] die in your [D] sleep."

V5: And [D] when he'd finished speakin', he [G] turned back towards the [D] window
crushed out his cigarette and faded off to [A] sleep.
And [D]! somewhere in the darkness the [G]! gambler, he broke [D]! even.
But [G]! in his final [D]! words I found an [A]! ace that I could [D] keep.

Ch2: You got to [D] know when to hold 'em, [G] know when to [D] fold 'em,
[G] know when to [D] walk away and know when to [A] run.
You never [D] count your [D] money when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table.
There'll be time enough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D] done.

Ch3 (a capella): *You got to know when to hold 'em (when to hold 'em)
know when to fold 'em (when to fold 'em)
know when to walk away and know when to run.
You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table.
There'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done.*

Ch4: You got to [D] know when to hold 'em, [G] know when to [D] fold 'em,
[G] know when to [D] walk away and know when to [A] run.
You never [D] count your [D] money when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table.
There'll be time enough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D]! done.