

The Gambler (Amtrak Ticket Agent Motivational Speaker key change version)

recorded by Kenny Rogers

written by Don Schlitz

B E B
On a warm summer's evening on a train bound for nowhere
F#7
I met up with the gambler we were both too tired to sleep
B E B
So we took turns a staring out the window at the darkness
E B F#7 B
Till boredom overtook us and he began to speak

E B
He said Son I've made a life out of reading people's faces
F#7
And knowing what their cards were by the way they held their eyes
B E B
And if you don't mind my saying I can see you're out of aces
E B F#7 B
For a taste of your whiskey I'll give you some advice

E B
So I handed him my bottle and he drank down my last swallow
F#7
Then he bummed a cigarette and asked me for a light
B E B
And the night got deathly quiet and his face lost all expression
E B F#7 B
Said if you're gonna play the game boy ya gotta learn to play it right

E B
You got to know when to hold 'em know when to fold 'em
E B F#7
know when to walk away and know when to run
B E B
You never count your money when you're sitting at the table
E B F#7 B B
There'll be time enough for counting when the dealing's done

C F C
Every gambler knows that the secret to surviving
G 7
Is knowing what to throw away and knowing what to keep
C F C
Cause every hand's a winner and every hand's a loser
F C G 7 C
And the best that you can hope for is to die in your sleep

F
C
 And when he'd finished speaking he turned back towards the window
G 7
 Crushed out his cigarette and faded off to sleep
C
F
C
 And somewhere in the darkness the gambler he broke even
F
C
G 7
C
 But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep

(chorus x3)

C
F
C
 You got to know when to hold 'em know when to fold 'em
F
C
G 7
 know when to walk away and know when to run
C
F
C
 You never count your money when you're sitting at the table
F
C
G 7
C
 There'll be time enough for counting when the dealings done