

The Gambler

1976, Don Schlitz (Kenny Rogers, Johnny Cash, etc.)

Intro: D /

D / G D
On a warm summer's evening, on a train bound for nowhere

D / / A
I met up with the gambler, we were both too tired to sleep

D / G D
So we took turns a-staring out the window at the darkness

G D A D
The boredom overtook us — and he began to speak

D / G D
He said, "Son, I've made my life out of readin' people's faces

D / / A
Knowin' what their cards were by the way they held their eyes

D / G D
So if you don't mind me saying, I can see you're out of aces

G D A D /
For a taste of your whiskey, I'll give you some advice"

D / G D
So I handed him my bottle, and he drank down my last swallow

D / / A
- Then he bummed a cigarette, and asked me for a light

D / G D
And the night got deathly quiet, and his face lost all expression

G D A D
Said, "If you're gonna play the game, boy, you gotta learn to play it right

D / G D
You've got to know when to hold 'em — know when to fold 'em

G D / A
— Know when to walk away — know when to run

D- G- D G D
You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table

D- G- D A D / / /
There'll be time enough for countin' - when the dealin's done

D / G D
Every gambler knows that the secret to survivin'

D / / A7
Is knowin' what to throw away, and knowin' what to keep

D / G D
'Cause every hand's a winner, and every hand's a loser

G D A7 D
And the best that you can hope for is to die in your sleep

D / **G** **D**
So when he finished speakin' he turned back t'ward the window

D / / **A7**
- Crushed out his cigarette, and faded off to sleep

D↓ / **G**↓ **D**↓
And somewhere in the darkness, the gambler he broke even

G↓ **D**↓ **A7**↓ **D**↓
But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep

D / **G** **D**
You've got to know when to hold 'em — know when to fold 'em

G **D** / **A**
— Know when to walk away — know when to run

D- **G**- **D** **G** **D**
You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table

D- **G**- **D** **A** **D**
There'll be time enough for countin' - when the dealin's done

Chuck:

Z / / /
You've got to know when to hold 'em — know when to fold 'em

/ / / /
— Know when to walk away — 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

Strum:

D / **G** **D**
You've got to know when to hold 'em — know when to fold 'em

G **D** / **A**
— Know when to walk away — know when to run

D- **G**- **D** **G** **D**
You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table

D- **G**- **D** **A** **D**
There'll be time enough for countin' - when the dealin's done

