

# The Gambler – Kenny Rogers (1978)

Intro: C F C F - -

On a [C]warm summer's [F]evenin' - on a [F]traaaain bound for [C]nowhere  
I [C]met up with the [F]gambler - we were [F]both too tired to [G7]sleep - -  
So [C]we took turns a-[F]starin' - out the [F]window at the [C]darkness  
Till [F]boredom over[C]took us - - [G] - and he began to [C]speak

He said [C]"Son I've made a [F]life - - out of [F]readin' peoples' [C]faces  
& [C]knowin' what their [F]cards were - by the [F]way they held their [G7]eyes  
So if [C]you don't mind me [F]sayin' - - I can [F]see you're out of [C]aces  
For a [F]taaaste of your [C]whiskey - I'll [G]give you some ad[C]vice" [F]

So I [C]handed him my [F]bottle - and he [F]drank down my last [C]swallow  
[C] - Then he bummed a [F]cigarette - and [F]asked me for a [G7]light  
And the [C]night got deathly [F]quiet - - and his [F]ace lost all ex[C]pression  
Said "if u're [F]gonna play the [C]game boy, ya gotta [G]learn to play it [C]right

You got to [C]know when to [F]hold 'em - - [F] - know when to [C]fold 'em - -  
[F] - Know when to [C]walk away - [F] and know when to [G]run  
You never [C]count - your - [F]money - when you're [F]sittin' at the [C]table  
There'll be [F]time enough for [C]countin' - - [G] - when the dealin's [C]done [F]

## KEY CHANGE !

D /

[D] - Every gambler [F]knows - - that the [G]secret to sur[D]vivin'  
Is [D]knowin' what to [F]throw away - and [F]knowin' what to [A7]keep  
'Cause [D]every hand's a [F]winner - and [G]every hand's a [D]loser  
And the [G]best that you can [D]hope for is to [A]diie in your [D]sleep."

& [D]when he'd finished [F]speakin' - he [G]turned back toward the [D]window  
[D] - Crushed out his [F]cig-a-rette - and [F]faded off to [A7]sleep  
And D↓ somewhere in the (n)darkness - the G↓ gambler he broke D↓ even  
But G↓ in his final D↓ words I found an G↓ ace that I could [D]keep:

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

## Chorus

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

## A Capella

## Chorus

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

## Chords

