

INTRO 4 bars on CVERSE 1 (*ukuleles only*)

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

VERSE 2 (*Bass comes in from here*)

C F C
 He said, "Son, I've made a life out of readin' people's faces,
 G7
 knowin' what their cards were by the way they held their eyes.
 C F C F C
 And if you don't mind me sayin', I can see you're out of aces.
 G C
 For a taste of your whiskey I'll give you some advice."

VERSE 3 (*ALL Instruments from here*)

C F C
 So I handed him my bottle and he drank down my last swallow.
 G7
 Then he bummed a cigarette and asked me for a light.
 C F C
 And the night got deathly quiet, and his face lost all expression.
 F C G C
 Said, "If you're gonna play the game, boy, ya gotta learn to play it right.

CHORUS

C F C
 You gotta know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em,
 F C G
 know when to walk away and know when to run.
 C F C F C
 You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table.
 F C G7 C
 There'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done.

VERSE 4

D G D
 Every gambler knows that the secret to survivin'
 A7
 is knowin' what to throw away and knowing 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."

VERSE 5

D G D
 So when he'd finished speakin', he turned back towards the window,
 G 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/ A/ D/
 But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep.

CHORUS

D G D
 You gotta know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em,
 G D A
 know when to walk away and know when to run.
 D G D G D
 You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table.
 G D A7 D/
 There'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done.

Repeat Chorus (Acapella), then repeat chorus and outro with instruments.

OUTRO

G D A7 D/
 There'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done.