

INTRO 4 bars on C

VERSE 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

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.