

**Brilliant Mistake**  
**Elvis Costello**

**G F G F G F G F**

**G D**  
He thought he was the King of America

**C G D**  
Where they pour Coca Cola just like vintage wine

**G D**  
Now I try hard not to become hysterical

**C G D**  
But I m not sure if I m laughing or crying

**C**  
I wish that I could push a button

**C F C**  
And talk in the past and not the present tense

**C**  
And watch this hurtin feeling disappear

**F Em**  
Like it was common sense

**G F G F**  
It was a fine idea at the time

**G Em F C G C Em Am G C**  
Now it s a brilliant mistake

**G D**  
She said that she was working for the ABC News

**C G D**  
It was as much of the alphabet as she knew how to use

**G D**  
Her perfume was unspeakable it lingered in the air

**C G D**  
Like her artificial laughter her mementos of affairs

**C**  
Oh I said I see you know him

**F C**  
Isn t that very fortunate for you

**C**  
And she showed me his calling card

**C F Em**  
He came third an fourth and there were more than one or two

**G F G F**  
He was a fine idea at the time

**G Em F C G C Em Am G C**  
Now it s a brilliant mistake

**G D**

He thought he was the King of America

**C** **G** **D**

But it was just a boulevard of broken dreams

**G** **D**

A trick they do with mirrors and with chemicals

**C** **G** **D**

The words of love in whispers and the axe of love in screams

**C**

I wish that I could push a button

**C** **F** **C**

And talk in the past and not the present tense

**C**

And watch this hurtin feeling disappear

**F** **Em**

Like it was common sense

**G** **F** **G** **F**

It was a fine idea at the time

**G** **Em** **F** **C** **G** **C** **Em** **Am** **G** **C**

Now it s a brilliant mistake

**G** **F** **G** **F**

It was a fine idea at the time

**G** **Em** **F** **C** **G** **C** **Em** **Am** **G** **C** **G**

Now it s a brilliant mistake