

**Strict Time**  
**Elvis Costello**

#-----PLEASE NOTE-----#  
#This file is the author s own work and represents their interpretation of the #  
#song. You may only use this file for private study, scholarship, or research. #  
#-----#  
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Strict Time  
Words & Music by: Elvis Costello  
>From the album: TRUST

INTRO:  
**G C G C G C G C**

**G**  
There s a hand on a wire that leads to my mouth  
I can hear you knocking but I m not coming out  
**C**  
Don t want to be a puppet or a ventriloquist  
**G**  
Cause there s no ventilation on a critical list  
**D** **C**  
Fingers creeping up my spine are not mine to resist  
**G**  
Strict time

CHORUS:  
**D**  
Toughen up, toughen up  
**C**  
Keep your lip buttoned up  
**G**  
Strict time

**G**  
Oh the muscles flex and the fingers curl  
And a cold sweat breaks out on the sweater girl

Strict time

**C**

Oh he s all hands, don t touch that dial  
The courting cold wars weekend witch trial

**G**

Strict time

**D**

All the boys are straight laced and the girls are frigid

**C**

**G**

The talk is two-faced and the rules are rigid cause it s strict time  
Strict time

(chorus)

**G**

You talk in hushed tones, I talk in lush tones  
Try to look Italian through the musical Valium  
Strict time

**C**

Thinking of grand larceny

**D**

Smoking the everlasting cigarette of chastity  
Cute assistants staying alive

**C**

**G**

More like a hand job than the hand jive  
Strict time

Chorus

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all moanday, tearsday, wailsday, thumpsday, frightday, shatterday (joyce/FW)

<http://www.magick.net/~michael/> <http://www.magick.net/~michael/music.html>