

**The Gambler**  
**Kenny Rogers**

[Intro] D G D G

D  
On a warm summer s evenin  
G D  
on a train bound for nowhere  
G D  
I met up with the gambler  
G A  
we were both too tired to sleep  
D  
So we took turns a starin  
G D  
out the window at the darkness  
G D  
til boredom overtook us  
A D  
and he began to speak

D  
He said, Son, I ve made my life  
G D  
out of readin people s faces  
G D  
and knowin what their cards were  
G A  
by the way they held their eyes  
D  
And if you don t mind my sayin  
G D  
I can see you re out of aces  
G D  
For a taste of your whiskey  
A D  
I ll give you some advice

D  
So I handed him my bottle  
G D  
and he drank down my last swallow

Then he bummed a cigarette  
G A  
and asked me for a light  
D  
And the night got deathly quiet,  
G D

and his face lost all expression

**G**

**D**

Said, If you re gonna play the game, boy

**A**

**D**

ya gotta learn to play it right

**D**

You got to know when to hold em

**G**

**D**

know when to fold em

**G**

**D**

know when to walk away

**G**

**A**

and know when to run

**D**

You never count your money

**G**

**D**

when you re sittin at the table

**G**

**D**

There ll be time enough for countin

**A**

**D**

when the dealin s done

**D**

Every gambler knows

**G**

**D**

that the secret to survivin

**G**

**D**

is knowin what to throw away

**G**

**A**

and knowing what to keep

**D**

Cause every hand s a winner

**G**

**D**

and every hand s a loser

**G**

**D**

and the best that you can hope for

**A**

**D**

is to die in your sleep

**D**

And when he d finished speakin

**G**

**D**

he turned back towards the window

**G**

**D**

crushed out his cigarette

**G**

**A**

and faded off to sleep

**D**

And somewhere in the darkness

**G**

**D**

the gambler, he broke even

**G**

**D**

But in his final words I found

**A** **D**  
an ace that I could keep