

Verse 1:

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

Verse 2:

D/// **///** **G///** **D///**
 He said, "Son, I've made a life out of readin' people's faces
G/// **D///** **///** **A///**
 Knowin' what their cards were by the way they held their eyes
D/// **///** **G///** **D///**
 And if you don't mind my sayin', I can see you're out of aces
G/// **D///** **A///** **D///**
 For a taste of your whiskey I'll give you some advice"

Verse 3:

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

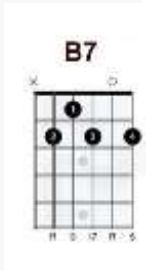
Chorus in D:

D/// **///** **G///** **D///**
 You got to 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///**
 You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table
G/// **D///** **A///** **D///** **///**
 There'll be time enough for countin' ... when the dealin's done

(Change key) **E///** **E///**

Verse 4:

E/// **///** **A///** **E///**
...Ev'ry gambler knows that the secret to sur - vivin'
A/// **E///** **///** **B7///**
Is knowin' what to throw away and knowing what to keep
E/// **///** **A///** **E///**
'Cause ev'ry hand's a winner and ev'ry hand's a loser
A/// **E///** **B7///** **E///**
And the best that you can hope for is to die in your sleep



Verse 5:

E/// **///** **A///** **E///**
And when he'd finished speakin', he turned back towards the window
A/// **E///** **///** **B7///**
...Crushed out his cigarette and faded off to sleep
E↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
And somewhere in the darkness the gambler, he broke even
↓ **E↓** **B7↓** **E↓**
But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep

Chorus in E:

E/// **///** **A///** **E///**
You got to know when to hold 'em ... know when to fold 'em
A/// **E///** **///** **B7///**
...Know when to walk away ... and know when to run
E/// **///** **A///** **E///**
You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table
A/// **E///** **B7///** **E///**
There'll be time enough for countin' ... when the dealin's done

Repeat Chorus in E