

The gambler by Kenny Rogers

Before listening

1. Look at these words and their definition:

To gamble /gæmbəl/ (v): ¹to risk money on a card game, horse race, etc. *I gambled all my winnings on the last race.* ²to risk losing something in the hope of being successful. *It was wrong to gamble with our children's future.*

Gambler /gæmbəl/ (n): a person who risks money on a card game, horse race, etc. *He was a compulsive gambler (= found it difficult to stop).*

2. Discussion

- When and why do you think people gamble?
- Do you think gamblers can control gambling?
- Do you know any gambler?

While listening

Working with the song. Click on the video on the right. Do the activities below.

1. Listen and fill in the blanks:

On a warm ¹ _____ 's evenin' on a ² _____ bound for nowhere,
I met up with the ³ _____, we were both too ⁴ _____ to sleep
So we took turns a-starin' out the ⁵ _____ at the ⁶ _____
When **boredom** overtook us he began to ⁷ _____

2. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form

He ⁸ _____ (say): Son, I ⁹ _____ (make) a life, out of **readin' people's faces**
Knowin' what the cards ¹⁰ _____ (be) by the way they held their eyes
So if you ¹¹ _____ **(not mind) my sayin'**, I can see you're out of aces
For a taste of your whiskey I ¹² _____ (give) you some advice
So I handed him my bottle and he ¹³ _____ (drink) down my last **swallow**
Then he **bummed a cigarette** and ¹⁴ _____ (ask) me for a light
And the night got (get) deathly quiet and his face ¹⁵ _____ (lose) all expression
He said: If you're gonna play the game boy, you gotta learn to play it right

3. Read the sentences. Listen and number them. Write the number in the boxes.

1	You've got to know		Know when to walk away
	Know when to run		When you're sittin' at the table
	Know when to fold 'em		When to hold 'em
	There'll be time enough for countin'		You never count your money
	When the dealin's done		

4. Match the parts. Write the answers in the boxes below.

1	Now every gambler knows	a	Is to die in your sleep
2	Is knowin' what to throw away	b	The secret to survivin'
3	'Cause every hand's a winner	c	And every hand's a loser
4	And the best that you can hope for	d	And knowin' what to keep

1 2 3 4

5. Complete with the preposition

And when he finished speakin'
 He turned _____ toward the window
 Crushed _____ his cigarette
 And faded _____ to sleep
 And somewhere _____ the darkness
 The gambler he **broke even**
 And in his final words I found
 An ace that I could keep

You've got to know when to hold 'em
 Know when to fold 'em
 Know when to walk away
 Know when to run
 You never count your money
 When you're sittin' at the table
 There'll be time enough for countin'

When the dealin's done

You've got to know when to hold 'em

Know when to fold 'em

Know when to walk away

Know when to run

You never count your money

When you're sittin' at the table

There'll be time enough for countin'

When the dealin's done

After listening

Working with vocabulary and expressions.

1. The **highlighted** expressions in the song are listed below. Can you match them to their meaning? Drag the expression next to the meaning.

1. To read people's faces

2. "If you don't mind my saying"

3. To break even

4. Boredom

5. swallow

6. To bum a cigarette

A. to ask someone for something, such as money or cigarettes, without intending to pay for them

B. The ability to read emotions from faces.

C. to have no profit or loss

D. to make food, drink, etc. go down your throat into your stomach

E. used in order to be more polite when you say something that could slightly upset, annoy, or embarrass someone.

F. the state of feeling bored.

2. In the song, **'em** appears several times. What would you say it stands for?

3. What other shortened words can you find?

Working with sounds: letter 'a'

This letter has different sound in English:

- Sound 1: 'a' as in apple **æ**
- Sound 2: 'a' as in many **e**
- Sound 3: 'a' as in father **ɑ:**

- Sound 4: 'a' as in ball **ɔ:**
- Sound 5: 'a' as in snake **er**

Can you find in the song three examples of the letter 'a' sounding differently?
Discuss with the class.

Challenge yourself with this game!