



The Gambler - Kenny Rogers

Listen to the lyrics and tell the class what you think the song is about. Then, highlight any lines that are about the game of poker.

*On a warm summer's eve
On a train bound for nowhere
I met up with the gambler
We were both too tired to sleep
So we took turns a-starin'
Out the window at the darkness
The boredom overtook us,
And he began to speak*

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

*So I handed him my bottle
And he drank down my last swallow
Then he bummed a cigarette
And asked me for a light
And the night got deathly quiet
And his faced lost all expression
He said, "If you're gonna play the game, boy
You gotta learn to play it right*

*You've got to know when to hold 'em
Know when to fold 'em
Know when to walk away
And 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*

*Every gambler knows
That the secret to survivin'
Is knowin' what to throw away
And knowin' what to keep
'Cause every hand's a winner
And every hand's a loser
And the best that you can hope for is to die
in your sleep*

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

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These lyrics are about the game of poker, but not really...
In pairs, discuss what the gambler really meant..

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The Gambler

Match the idioms about gambling with their definitions.

<i>ace in the hole</i>	<i>Have great or unexpected success, especially in making a lot of money quickly</i>	a <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>all bets are off</i>	<i>Protect yourself against loss by supporting more than one possible result.</i>	b <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>hedge your bets</i>	<i>The outcome of a situation is unpredictable.</i>	c <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>hit the jackpot</i>	<i>A special talent or skill you have that other people are not aware of.</i>	d <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>roll the dice</i>	<i>Arrange things in a way that is unfair.</i>	a <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>stack the deck</i>	<i>The result of something cannot be controlled.</i>	b <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>luck of the draw</i>	<i>Risk everything in an all-out effort.</i>	c <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>go for broke</i>	<i>Take a chance on something.</i>	d <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>on the cards</i>	<i>Giving off no expression.</i>	a <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>no dice</i>	<i>Allow events to happen without trying to change them.</i>	b <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>poker face</i>	<i>Possible or likely.</i>	c <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>let the chips fall where they may</i>	<i>Slang used to refuse a request.</i>	d <input type="checkbox"/>



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CORRECTIONS

<i>roll the dice</i>	<i>Arrange things in a way that is unfair.</i>	a b
<i>stack the deck</i>	<i>The result of something cannot be controlled.</i>	b c
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The Gambler

Answer these questions in pairs using the expressions and idioms you just learned.

Have you ever put everything on the line? Why did you decide to go for broke?

Are you someone who likes to roll the dice or someone who hedges their bets?

What's your ace in the hole at work? at home? in life? in general?

How's your poker face? Can you bluff easily? Or can people see right through you?

Outside the lottery, have you ever hit the jackpot?

What types of people do you feel have the deck stacked against them?

How do you feel when all bets are off? Is it thrilling or frightening? Why?

What things in life are simply the luck of the draw?

In your opinion, what's on the cards for the coronavirus pandemic?

What happened the last time you had to tell someone "no dice" ?