

Folsom Prison Blues — Johnny Cash

(intro)

(verse 1)

E

I hear the train a comin', it's rolling round the bend

E⁷

And I ain't seen the sunshine since I don't know when

A

E

I'm stuck in Folsom prison, and time keeps draggin' on

B⁷

E

But that train keeps a rollin' on down to San Antone

(verse 2)

E

When I was just a baby, my mama told me "Son,"

E⁷

"Always be a good boy, don't ever play with guns."

A

E

But I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die

B⁷

E

When I hear that whistle blowin', I hang my head and cry

(solo 1, one bar per chord)

E E E E⁷ A A E E B⁷ B⁷ E

(verse 3)

E

I bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car

E⁷

They're probably drinkin' coffee and smoking big cigars

A

E

Well I know I had it coming, I know I can't be free

B⁷

E

But those people keep on movin', and that's what tortures me

(solo 2, one bar per chord)

E E E E⁷ A A E E B⁷ B⁷ E

(verse 4)

E

Well if they freed me from this prison, if that railroad train was mine

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E7

I bet I'd move it on a little farther down the line

E

Far from Folsom prison, that's where I want to stay

E

And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues away

(outro: play intro and end on an E chord)

performance notes: Using a capo at the first fret places this song into the original key of F major. When playing this song without a bass player, moving the thumb (or pick) between the fifth and sixth strings on each chord will create a bass line. Note the black diamond on the B7 chord indicates placement of second finger needed to create a proper bass line. The arrow at the second fret in the intro indicates a slight bending upward of the second fret F# then returning to the bracketed F# before playing open E.

intro

[illegible]

chords