

The Tenderfoot

As sung by Eddie Ashlaw

Very freely*

1. One Spring I thought I'd have some fun, I'd learn how punch - ing
 2. Next day we start - ed for the ranch, Brown talked to me most

cows were done, And when the round - up was had be - gun, I'd
 all the way, For he says punch - ing cows was noth - ing but play, That it

tack - le the cat - tle king; Said he, "My fore - man,
 was - n't no work at all. "For all you have to

he's in town, he's in the sa - loon and his name is Brown; I
 do is ride, It's ***just like drift - ing o'er the tides." And

think that we can take him down." Says I, "That's just the thing."
 ***jim - in - y, jim - in - y, how he lied; He sure - ly had his gall.

*The fermati are used to indicate where it makes sense to pause *very slightly* at the ends of phrases or half-phrases.

They are *not* an exact indication of where Ashlaw pauses in singing the song.

**Sometimes this is sung as written, sometimes as the A below.

***The three words in this measure should be sung as even eighth notes.

****'Jiminy' should be sung as triplets following the melodic pattern.

*****On the first and last verses, this note is sung as a G.

There are other variations on this last phrase, depending on the text.

3. For he put me in charge of the cav - y - yard, Said, "Now, my boy, don't work too hard. For all that you have to do is guard Those hors - es from get - ting a - way." He had two hun - dred and six - ty head, and oft - times wished that I was dead when one of those hors - es would get a - way, Brown's face, it would turn red, And this is the truth, I say. 4. When one of those hors - es would get a - way It was just like run - ning for a stake, For some - times you could not head them at all, And oth - er times my horse would fall, And I'd shoot on like a can - non - ball 'Til the earth came in my way.

5. For next they saddled me up an old gray hack
With a great big setfast on his back
And they padded him up with gunny sacks;
They used my bedding and all.
When I got on he quit the ground,
He went in the air and he turned around.
When I came down I busted the ground -
That was a scandalous fall.

6. For they picked me up and brought me in,
They rolled me down with a rolling pin.
"For that is the way we all begin;
You're doing well," said Brown.
"And in the morning if you don't die,
Another horse I'll let you try."
"Oh, won't you let me walk?" said I,
"Or I'll go back to town."

7. Oh, I've traveled up and I've wandered down,
I've traveled this wide world round and round,
I've lived in cities and lived in town,
But I have this much to say:
Before you go west, go kiss your wife,
Get a heavy insurance upon your life,
And gut yourself with a butcher knife;
You'll find it the easiest way!

The third and fourth verses have nine and six phrases respectively, and some major melodic variations.
The last three verses follow the same melodic patterns as the first two, though with rhythmic and melodic flexibility.