

# I know an old lady who swallowed a fly

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*A cumulative song. Who doesn't know the old lady! – usually through the singing of Burl Ives. The words and music are by Rose Bonne and Alan Mills*

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of ten staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes: F, Gm, C7, and F. The lyrics are as follows:

I know an old la - dy who swal-lowed a fly. I don't know why she  
swal - lowed a fly. Per - haps she'll die. I know an old la - dy who  
swal - lowed a spi - der, That wrig - gled and jig - gled and ti - ckled in - side her.  
She swal - lowed the spi - der, to catch the fly, I don't know why she  
swal - lowed a fly. Per - haps she'll die. I know an old la - dy who  
swal - lowed a bird. How ab - surd to swal - low a bird! She  
**Repeat as necessary**  
swal - lowed the bird to catch the spi - der, That wrig - gled and jig - gled and  
ti - ckled in - side her. She swal - lowed the spi - der, to catch the fly,  
I don't know why she swal - lowed a fly. Per - haps she'll die  
**Last verse**  
I know an old la - dy who swal - lowed a horse. **Spoken** She's dead, of course!



I know an old lady who swallowed a fly.  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly.  
Perhaps she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a spider,  
That wiggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly,  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly.  
Perhaps she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a bird,  
How absurd to swallow a bird!  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider,  
That wiggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly,  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly.  
Perhaps she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a cat,  
Just fancy that! She swallowed a cat.  
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird...

I know an old lady who swallowed a dog,  
What a hog to swallow a dog!  
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat...

I know an old lady who swallowed a goat,  
She opened her throat and swallowed a goat.  
She swallowed the goat to catch the dog,

I know an old lady who swallowed a cow,  
I don't know how but she swallowed a cow.  
She swallowed the cow to catch the goat,

I know an old lady who swallowed a horse  
She's dead, of course!