

# Why Can't Paddy Be A Gentleman - song lyrics

American Old-time song lyrics from [www.traditionalmusic.co.uk](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

Why Can't Paddy Be a Gentleman?

Being told Pat couldn't be a gentleman, I've set myself the task,  
That I to-night the reason why of you my friends would ask;  
Hasn't Ireland got her colleges, that have for centuries stood.  
To teach the people-and you know their teaching's mighty good;  
Haven't Irishmen got heads and hearts- by dad, I know they've so.  
Then why can't Paddy be a gentleman? That's what I want to know.

Some look down on an Irishman, as if they thought that we  
Could not but helpless dolts or fools e'er have a hope to be  
What matters where a man is born. I see in Erin's isle  
There's lots of native gentlemen to greet you with a smile;  
For there's other kind of gentlemen, besides a dandy bean.  
Then why can't Paddy be a gentleman? That's what I want to know.

You cannot give the reason why, I see it in your face;  
That Paddy's not a gentleman, because you know he is.  
He's always good to help a friend, although his means are scant;  
And if he's fond of blarney, he hates deceit and cant;  
His coat may be of common frieze, his heart won't freeze-oh, no!  
Then why can't Paddy be a gentleman? That's what I want to know.

If an Englishman's a gentleman, oh, worrah, then it's true;  
As Pat is John Bull's brother, then he must be one, too.  
Just read the Irish history, and in that same you'll find  
Great deeds of Irish gentlemen-St. Patrick's one, d'ye mind;  
And don't forget this-ye who sneer at honest Paddy's worth-  
That actions make a gentleman, no matter what the birth.