The English language is spoken by more than a billion people throughout the world. But where did English come from? And how has it evolved into the language used today? The English Language: A Very Short Introduction investigates how we have arrived at the English we know today, and celebrates the way new speakers and new uses mean that it continues to adapt. Engaging with contemporary concerns about correctness, it considers whether such changes are improvements, or evidence of slipping standards. What is the future for the English language? Will Standard English continue to hold sway, or are we witnessing its replacement by newly emerging Englishes?