Biometrics is the scientific discipline of identifying individuals by means of the measurement of unique personal attributes, such as facial appearance, fingerprints, iris patterning, the voice, the way we write, and the way we walk. The new technologies of biometrics have a wide range of practical applications, from securing mobile phones and laptops to establishing identity in bank transactions, travel documents, and national identity cards. Biometrics: A Very Short Introduction considers the capabilities of biometrics-based identity checking and looks at the basic techniques in use today, developments in system design, and emerging technologies. It also explores the benefits and limitations of biometrics technologies, and how they can effectively support our increasingly interconnected society.