Car

THE TRICK: With the magician and his assistant looking on, the group selects three objects and places them in a row on the floor. The magician leaves the room, and the group picks one of the three objects for him to guess. When the magician returns he immediately points to the correct article.

THE SECRET: The clue is in the phrase the assistant uses to call the magician back. It is based on the word "car." If the phrase begins with a C ("Come in!") the magician knows that the correct object is the one on the left. If it begins with an A ("All right!"), the object is the middle one. If it begins with an R ("Ready"), the chosen object is the one on the right.

VARIATIONS: In Count the Letters several objects are placed on the floor, one of them having been chosen as the secret object. When the magician returns to the room, the assistant points to the objects one by one and the magician selects the correct object. Again, the clue is in the first word the assistant says. If that word has one letter, as in "I think we're ready to start," then the first object the assistant points to is the one. If the word has two letters, as in "We can begin now," the second object pointed to is correct, and so on. In Count the Words, it is the number of words in the assistant’s call that furnishes the clue. If he says, "Enter!" the first object he points to will be it. If he says, "Come in!" it will be the second object, and so on.