My method and working out
To start, I knew that there were 13 cards, from Ace to King, and that they had to be arranged in a particular order for the trick to work.
I decided to try Alison's method because I thought it would be easier to work out the positions of the cards by starting with a normal deck.
I numbered the positions from 1 to 13, with 1 being the top card and 13 being the bottom card.
My starting arrangement was:
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
These numbers represented the original positions of the cards, not their values.

Step 1 - Finding the Ace
I started by spelling ACE.
● A - Move position 1 to the bottom.
● C - Move position 2 to the bottom.
● E - Reveal and remove position 3.
This meant that the Ace had to be in position 3. The remaining positions were now:
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 1, 2

Step 2 – Finding the Two

Next, I spelled TWO.
● T – Move position 4 to the bottom.
● W – Move position 5 to the bottom.
● O – Reveal and remove position 6.
This showed that the Two had to be in position 6. The remaining positions were:
7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 1, 2, 4, 5

Step 3 – Finding the Three

For THREE, I had to move four cards to the bottom before revealing the fifth card.

● T – Move position 7.
● H – Move position 8.
● R – Move position 9.
● E – Move position 10.
● E – Reveal position 11.

Therefore, the Three had to be in position 11.

I realised that I couldn't just count the letters and use that as the original position, because the cards were constantly moving around and being removed.

Step 4 – Continuing the pattern

I repeated the same process for the remaining cards. Each time, I moved the cards to the bottom for every letter except the last one, and recorded the original position of the card that was revealed.

Here are the results I got:

Card Number of letters Original position
Ace 3 3
Two 3 6
Three 5 11
Four 4 2
Five 4 8
Six 3 12
Seven 5 7
Eight 5 4
Nine 4 13
Ten 3 9
Jack 4 10
Queen 5 1
King 4 5

For the King, there was only one card left, so it automatically had to be the King.

Step 5 – Working out the original arrangement

Once I had found the original position of every card, I arranged them in position order from 1 to 13.

My final arrangement, from the top of the deck to the bottom, was:

Position Card
1 Queen of Hearts
2 Four of Hearts
3 Ace of Hearts
4 Eight of Hearts
5 King of Hearts
6 Two of Hearts
7 Seven of Hearts
8 Five of Hearts
9 Ten of Hearts
10 Jack of Hearts
11 Three of Hearts
12 Six of Hearts
13 Nine of Hearts

Final order:

Queen → Four → Ace → Eight → King → Two → Seven → Five → Ten → Jack → Three → Six → Nine

Step 6 – Checking my answer

To check whether my arrangement worked, I started with the cards in this new order and performed the trick again.

When I spelled ACE, the third card was the Ace. After removing it, I spelled TWO, and the next revealed card was the Two.

I continued following the same method, and the cards were revealed in the correct order all the way to the King.

Conclusion

I found that the trick works because the order of the cards has been carefully planned around the number of letters in each card's name.

At first, I thought the cards might follow a simple numerical pattern, but I realised that moving cards to the bottom changes their positions each time.

By recording which original position was revealed at each stage, I was able to reconstruct the full arrangement.

The most interesting part was that even though the starting deck looked completely mixed up, every card could still be revealed in the correct order just by spelling its
name.