

**Stephen Robertson**

## **Locking down too**

down, not up—as in  
facing down the crisis  
pinning down the problem  
throwing down the gauntlet  
battening down the hatches  
closing down the argument  
shutting down the computer  
tearing down the barriers  
cutting down the roses  
floating down the river  
whistling down the wind

not as in  
screwing up your courage  
putting up resistance  
throwing up earthworks  
zipping up your jacket  
tying up your shoelaces  
topping up the tank  
tearing up the contract  
pulling up the weeds  
picking up the pieces  
wrapping up the meeting  
shutting up shop