Chiasmus

(Greek 'a placing crosswise') A reversal of grammatical structures in successive phrases or clauses. As in this example from Dr Johnson's *The Vanity of Human Wishes*:

> By the **day** a **frolic**, and the **dance** by **night**.
> a b b a

And this from Pope's *Essay on Man* (Epistle I):

> His time a moment, and a point his space.

The device is related to antitheses (*q.v.*).

Cuddon, J. A. *Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory.* 3rd ed. London: Penguin, 1991, p. 138.

Further examples:

> Never let a fool kiss you or a kiss fool you.

> What is joy to me, to him is pain.
> (Oscar Wilde. *The Nightingale and the Rose*.)