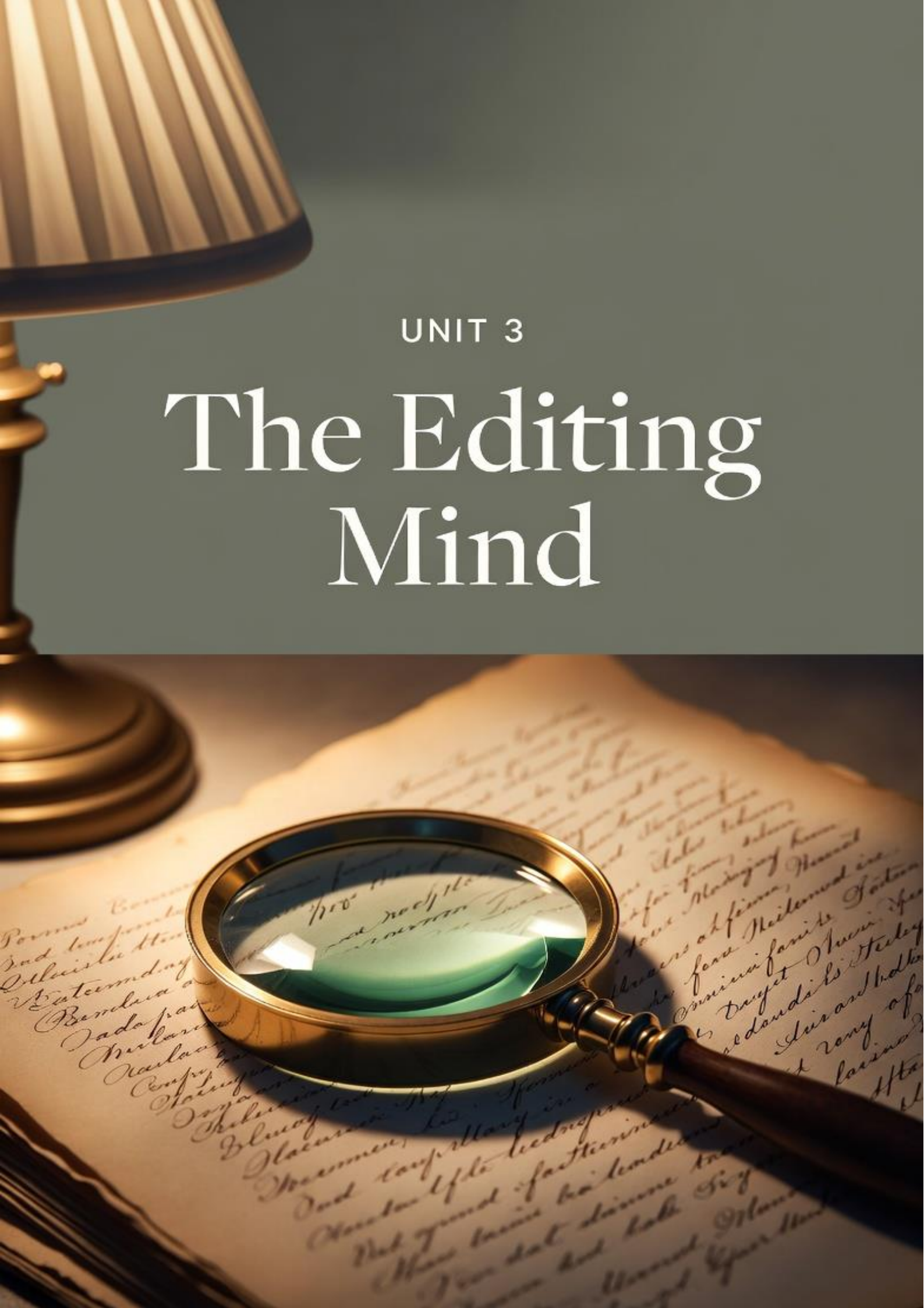


A warm, golden light emanates from a lamp on the left, casting a soft glow over a document. A magnifying glass with a brass frame and a dark handle rests on the document, focusing on a specific section of handwritten text. The document itself is filled with cursive script, and the overall scene suggests a process of careful review or editing.

UNIT 3

The Editing Mind

GRAMMAR FOR WRITERS
LESSON 11

Becoming Your Own Editor

Essential Question: How do professional writers transform an ordinary first draft into polished, compelling writing?

Bellringer: Who Writes Better?
Which writer will produce the stronger final draft?

Writer A
Writes once. Submits immediately.

Writer B
Writes. Revises. Edits. Reads again. Edits again. Then submits.

Task
Write 4–5 sentences explaining your choice. What makes one approach stronger?

LESSON SAMPLE

The Toolkit So Far

Today we combine skills from previous lessons into one unified editing process: Strong Verbs, Sentence Variety, Subject–Verb Agreement, and Verb Tense control.

The Biggest Myth About Writing

Good writers do not produce perfect first drafts. Professional authors revise many times. A messy first draft is not failure — it is the start of the process.

What Editing Is NOT	What Editing IS
Simply fixing mistakes after the fact.	Actively improving writing at every level — meaning, craft, and correctness.

Writer’s Principle

Readers should never have to repair the writing for the writer. Every editing pass should leave the text clearer, stronger, and more controlled than it was before.

Professional Writers Edit in Passes

Trying to fix everything at once leads to missed errors. Experienced writers use focused passes, each with one clear purpose.

Pass One: Big Picture	Pass Two: Sentence Craft	Pass Three: Grammar
Does the story make sense? Fix logic and missing details first.	Strengthen verbs, vary sentences, cut weak words, add specific imagery.	Fix agreement, tense, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

The Paragraph We Will Edit

Read once. Notice interesting moments, confusing parts, and errors. We will address each layer in order.

Last Saturday my cousin and I explored an old park near our neighborhood. We walked around for a long time and we looked at everything that was there. The trees was very tall and the wind blow through the branches. It make the place feel mysterious. My cousin keeps telling me that someone had lived there many years ago, but I don't really believe him. We found a small building with broken windows and we decided to go inside. It was dark and dusty. I hear a loud noise behind us, and we both turned around quickly. Nothing were there, but we suddenly wanted to leave.

Pass One: Big Picture

Ignore grammar. Focus only on meaning and story logic.

1. Does the story flow logically? Note any rushed transitions.

2. Where could the author add more detail? Name two thin places.

3. Which part is most interesting? Why does it have the strongest potential?

Pass Two: Sentence Craft

Strengthen verbs, vary openings, cut unnecessary words, replace vague language. Do not fix grammar yet.

Rewrite the paragraph with stronger craft:

LESSON SAMPLE

Pass Three: Grammar

Now correct every agreement, tense, punctuation, and spelling error. Write the final polished version:

LESSON SAMPLE

IB Insight

IB rewards writing that shows evidence of careful revision. The three-pass approach (meaning → craft → accuracy) develops the autonomous editing habits needed for timed examination responses and for refining longer written tasks.

Self-Editing Checklist

- ☐ Pass One complete — story makes sense and has enough detail.
- ☐ Pass Two complete — weak verbs replaced, imagery strengthened.
- ☐ Pass Three complete — agreement, tense, punctuation, and spelling corrected.
- ☐ Final version read aloud before submitting.

Reflection

Which editing pass made the biggest difference today? Justify with a specific example from your revision.
