Modification of Adjectives and Adverbs

Some adjectives and adverbs refer to qualities which are gradable. We use some words and expressions to add the idea of degree to gradable adjectives and adverbs. Common examples of these words are: too, as, so, enough, very, rather, quite, pretty, how, a little, a bit.

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate degree modifier.

1. It was ...................... unpleasant experience.

   a bit
   a little
   a rather

2. She looked ....................... unhappy.

   a bit
   a little
   rather

3. You are not ....................... to be a soldier.

   tall enough
   enough tall
   too tall
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4. I can’t tell you ...................... pleased I am about the result.

how
how much
what

5. I thought the house was ...................... small.

a little
little
Either could be used here

6. ...................... can you speak English?

How
How well
Either could be used here

7. He is ...................... creative.

not very
little
not little
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8. Her condition is ..................... serious.

very
very much
Either could be used here

9. You should come ..................... quickly as you can.

as
as much
Either could be used here

10. I don’t care ..................... expensive it is.

how
how much
Either could be used here

11. It is ..................... cold today.

very
very much
very little
All of these
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12. Today is ..................... colder than yesterday.

very
very much
Either could be used here

Answers
1. It was a rather unpleasant experience.

2. She looked rather unhappy.

3. You are not tall enough to be a soldier.

4. I can’t tell you how pleased I am about the result.

5. I thought the house was a little small.

6. How well can you speak English?

7. He is not very creative.

8. Her condition is very serious.

9. You should come as quickly as you can.

10. I don’t care how expensive it is.

11. It is very cold today.
12. Today is very / very much colder than yesterday.