Gated Recurrent Units

Gated recurrent units are very similar to vanilla RNNs, except that they have a "relevance" and "update" gate that allow the model to update and get relevant information. I personally find it easier to understand by looking at the formulas:

To the left, you have the diagram and equations for a simple RNN. To the right, we explain the GRU. Note that we add 3 layers before computing h and y.

$$\Gamma_u = \sigma\left(W_u\left[h^{<t0>}, x^{<t1>}\right] + b_u\right)$$
$$\Gamma_r = \sigma\left(W_r\left[h^{<t0>}, x^{<t1>}\right] + b_r\right)$$
$$h'^{<t1>} = \tanh\left(W_h\left[\Gamma_r * h^{<t0>}, x^{<t1>}\right] + b_h\right)$$

The first gate Γ_u allows you to decide how much you want to update the weights by. The second gate Γ_r, helps you find a relevance score. You can compute the new h by using the relevance gate. Finally you can compute h, using the update gate. GRUs "decide" how to update the hidden state. GRUs help preserve important information.