



Common

Origins

Lonnie Rashid Lynn Jr. grew up on Chicago's South Side and entered music as Common Sense. Chicago gave him a different position from the coastal centers then dominating rap media: house music, jazz history, neighborhood poetry, and an independent scene all informed his ear.

His earliest records were energetic and competitive, but the writing quickly turned inward. The shortened name Common followed a legal dispute, creating an accidental artistic reset that matched his movement toward a more reflective public voice.